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1968

# MONTANA FARM LABOR REPORT



Nice work if you can get it.  
Steve Two Two, Interviewer, Billings local  
office, in action with mobile units on the  
Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

## 1968

MONTANA  
STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

affiliated with  
UNITED STATES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE





Tea-time in the Bitterroot.  
(Courtesy - Ravalli Republican)

PREPARED BY

BEN G. EVANS  
CHIEF OF FARM PLACEMENT

FARM LABOR SECTION  
OF THE  
MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

JESS C. FLETCHER, DIRECTOR

A DIVISION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION COMMISSION OF MONTANA

EDGAR H. REEDER, CHAIRMAN

JAMES J. FLAHERTY, COMMISSIONER

FREDERICK D. MOULTON, COMMISSIONER

1-21-69

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1966



**6** The Ronan (Mont.) Pioneer  
Thursday, January 18, 1968



Courtesy - the  
Wolf Point Herald News



Courtesy  
the Corpsman.

**NEW PRINCESS** — JoEllen Jackson of Oswego, the n  
Oil Celebration Princess for 1969, was chosen during festi  
ties on the celebration grounds.

**DIRECTOR HONORED BY INDIANS**—Job Corps director William Kelly  
listens as Chief Earl Old Person, Chairman of Montana's Blackfeet In-  
dians, inducts him into the tribe.  
—photo by McDonald



**THE GATHERING OF THE  
TRIBES** — Dr. Jim Hall, left,  
University of Montana Director of  
Continuing Education, goes  
over some of the questions this  
Indian panel may be expected to  
be asked. The panel consists of  
Indians in the Training program

at the University of Montana,  
with a representative from each  
Montana reservation. The In-  
dians fielded questions directed  
to them during an Intertribal  
Policy board meeting on the UM  
campus. From left, seated are,  
Jim Littlebird, North Cheyenne;  
Darlene Belgarde, Ft. Peck and  
Myrna Arrow Top, Blackfeet.  
Standing from left are, John  
Minugh, Ft. Belknap; Marvin  
Bourdon, Flathead; Harold Wat-  
son, Rocky Boy and Alex Birdin  
Ground Crow. See story on page  
two.





## Maybe Use Corn for Bait?

A pig in a poke? Nope, a pig in a fish basket. Mary Lynn Johnston and the photographer clowned around while photographing baby pigs on the Larry Johnston farm near Corvallis, and this is the result. Hopefully, no one will hook this kind of 'fish' when he casts his bait into the Bitter Root River.

(Bob Olson Photo).

# Republican Ravalli



December 31, 1967



GIVE A HORSE A CAR he can ride (especially if it's a convertible) and he will forego horsepower any time. "Dusty," a pathetic pony with personality, was discovered by Margo Kimple, special investigator for the Missoula Humane Society, in her travels about the area this week. The pony was too small to ride—and both were too tired to walk, so Mrs.

Kimple took "Dusty" home in her convertible. "He seemed to enjoy the ride and the wind blowing through his mane," she said. But I got many strange looks from other people—along the way. I guess they thought I was a horse-napper!" A home in the country has been found for "Dusty." (Staff Photo by Evelyn King)



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## Part I. ANNUAL SUMMARY

PLANNING

## A. Changes in Administrative Organization:

Some changes were made in administrative organization during the 1967 season to the effect that rural manpower concepts were incorporated into the farm labor program. FPR's were assigned non-agricultural contacts and duties to conform with the present rural programs. This could not be an extensive change due to lack of finances for an over-all rural program. The overall mechanical administrative structure remains the same.

## B. Pre-season and In-season Meetings:

State and local office Farm Placement personnel participated and cooperated with growers and processors throughout the season and attended meetings whenever and wherever things could be accomplished.

Farm Placement personnel, as heretofore, continued to work throughout the year with county and state Extension Services, Montana State Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation County Committees and other farm organizations.

## C. Special arrangements for Recruitment are made in cooperation with other Government Agencies in other States.

Orders for sugar beet workers were placed in clearance with the state of Texas. In accordance with an agreement of several years, the Colorado Agency recruited workers in Texas for sugar companies in Montana. Several crews were obtained from Oklahoma.

A special program for youths was continued over the previous year in sugar beet activity. Crews increased over last year due to a temporary shortage. Average earnings were greater this year. The program was successful with few problems developing. The program is active in agricultural reporting areas 9-27-02 and 9-27-03.

Fewer Indians from local areas were recruited for the potato harvests due to mechanization. Youths were recruited extensively for hay and grain harvests. Sugar beet labor activity was reduced considerably in area 9-27-01 again this year due to loss of sugar factory the last two seasons.



### ECONOMIC TRENDS

Major changes in the agricultural economy which had an impact on employment were, first of all, a cold and cool spring and summer which resulted in late scheduling of help. All areas received sufficient moisture in June and late summer was cooler than expected thus slowing grain and hay harvests. Turnover in the small youth beet program was normal, weedacides were a great help. Crop planting was at maximum for winter wheat. Adverse weather did hamper harvests some this year. Stock was returned to winter ranges under above average conditions. Yields on hay and grain were excellent except in a few areas. The general harvest of all crops was excellent. Tonnage was better than expected on sugar beets. Labor was more than adequate for the beet harvest with a good influx of Texas Mexicans. A supply of Indians was not needed at the beginning of the season but wet weather nullified this. We were unable to recruit Indians due to other programs.

Due to a normal harvest season, hired workers were sufficient for the work force. The largest demands were in wheat, other small grains and hay harvests. Beet thinning and pulling of weeds was normal. Harvests were slightly later than the previous year due to a late start. Beet and potato harvests had some delays. No potatoes were damaged by frost and some areas noted an increase in farm employment and wages and mechanical improvements. Adverse weather caused very little schedule changes on labor which resulted in late season shortages. Community programs were not needed to help the harvest.

Hay and harvest hands were in demand but also were amply taken care of by recruitment. It was a good year in farm employment much as it was the previous year. However, a small decline of demands was noted throughout the state similar to the national decline and increased use of large machinery.

There was no major changes in land utilization in 1968 brought about by participation in production and acreage control programs of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, nor has expansion of urban development into rural areas caused large significant changes. Farms were decreasing and getting larger. An influx of rural to urban continued. An unexpected influx of labor from the West coast helped the Montana labor supply.

### EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

#### A. Seasonal Hired Farm Workers

Local labor is generally male and operates machinery such as tractors, hay balers, trucks and small grain combines. They also perform non-agricultural work, as heavy equipment operators, truck drivers, and construction labor.

Female work as ranch couples or single as ranch cook. Non-agricultural employment is generally as cook in a cafe or domestic work. In western Montana, housewives work in the small fruit and berry harvests.



Some High School youths of both sexes are recruited to hoe and thin sugar beets. Approximately 7,500 interstate male workers are employed in agricultural activities of small grains, haying, and livestock activities. They are single or unattached. These workers are mostly from California, Idaho, Minnesota, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, and Colorado. They also perform non-agricultural work as truck drivers and construction laborers.

Approximately 3,500 interstate workers are employed in the hoeing and thinning of sugar beets. These workers are primarily family groups, and both sexes 14 years and older work. Their main occupation is that of a vegetable farm laborer. The majority of these workers are from Texas and are of Mexican descent.

The most significant shortages of seasonal farm workers were for the spring seeding, late hay harvest and seeding. Domestic workers who were available for this activity were from surrounding states.

There was no significant surplus of seasonal farm workers. The influx was down; some shortages existed at times especially during the fall harvest and spring soil preparation.

Seven hundred and fifty caucasians came into the Polson and Kalispell areas to harvest cherries.

#### B. Regular Hired Farm Workers

The livestock and dry land small grain activities are the major crops that employ regular hired farm workers. The general trend of employment for 1968 was equal to previous years. Generally, wet weather resulted in delayed agricultural activities and some setbacks in a few areas.

Mechanization is having its inroads and does decrease needs in some activities, such as mechanized feed lots, hay and potato harvest, etc. However, better farming methods and scientific know-how is producing more from acreages. Reclaimed land and increased acreages were evident.

Dry land and small grain farms continue to increase in size with the result that more farm machinery is being used. This is true especially in the eastern part of the state. Small acreages persist in western Montana. Many of the larger farms are maintaining large equipment and repair sheds, thus creating demands for skilled mechanical help and heavy machinery operators. There is a constant demand for good skilled operators.



IMPACT OF MECHANIZATION AND OTHER  
CHANGES IN PRODUCTION METHODS

- A. The growing, care, and processing of sugar beets has been considered the main crop mechanized to the most significant degree in recent years. The harvest as heretofore mentioned in the previous report is about 100 per cent mechanized, and thinning around 55 percent. Considerable care in the planting of the seeds is important for the subsequent use of mechanical thinners. Seeds of the monogerm type must be placed in the ground at a pre-determined depth and interval of space. The size of the beet seed and cells of the plate in the planter must match. The equipment is simple in construction and does not require specialized knowledge to repair. During this season machines were used that would top six rows of sugar beets and dig three rows at a time thus contributing to a shorter harvest season and less labor.
1. Machines being used are hay harvesters which require but one person to operate. Potato harvesters are operated at times by family members. Bean harvesters have eliminated labor in the state. Large mechanical equipment is being used for soil preparation, seeding and summer fallowing. Mechanical corn pickers eliminated labor several years ago. Mechanical beet thinners and weedacides have made great strides in sugarbeet operations. Feeding of cattle is getting more mechanized through the feed lot process. Mechanical grain harvesting is getting more efficient.
  2. Skilled machine operators and repairmen are in demand. There is a shortage of such workers, although some are being trained. The general influx of workers into the state contain very few skilled workers. There should be some way of training migrants prior to the migration. Although there is a seasonable demand for such workers, a displaced worker trained as such would not be guaranteed year around work.
  3. Labor requirements resulting from mechanization this past season caused some demand, especially in the spring and fall, but demands for unskilled labor decreased from previous years. Mechanization has shortened the term of seasonal employment when weather conditions were normal.
  4. Trends are toward getting employers organized to compete for labor, although this is slow. There is still an influx of farm labor into other fields of endeavor due to better incentives. Some employers recognize the changes needed but not enough yet. Technological changes will force changes in the agriculture labor market similar to the non-agricultural.
- B. Improved seeding in sugar beets is making the thinning process less laborious all the time. Weedacides are eliminating labor to a great extent. Workers are moving through row crops faster than previously.



## RECRUITMENT AND UTILIZATION OF FARM WORKERS

- A. Radio, television, newspaper publicity, letters, and posters were utilized by the local offices to obtain the maximum supply of local seasonal farm workers. Excellent results were obtained.

Two local offices conducted school registrations to recruit youth for work in sugar beets and fruit. During 1969 this technique and program will be used in two beet area offices; but plans are being formulated to streamline the program and eliminate, as far as possible any problems.

Volunteer Farm Placement Representatives were used in most local office areas. Where possible, VFPR's made placement from local sources or transmitted unfilled orders to local offices for action. Farmers and ranchers were advised of their local VFPR through local newspapers, radio, posters, and by direct promotional mail from the local offices. While all VFPR's were not 100 per cent effective, it is planned to continue this activity in 1969.

As heretofore, the local labor skilled supply was not sufficient to meet the demand for regular hired farm workers. Inter-office clearance was used for some occupations.

- B. Montana Participated in the Annual Worker Plan

As an order-holding state, Montana received scheduled crews and family heads in response to inter-state orders for 2300 workers from Texas for the beet fields. Bulletins to California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho resulted in sufficient migration from west coast cherry orchards to fill the needs of the 750 pickers needed in Montana cherry orchards. No problems were involved relating to transportation, wages, housing, food, etc.

- C. Two hundred housing inspections were made. These were directly related to interstate recruitment. When inspections are made prior to occupancy, and until domestic recruitment is completed, it is not possible to determine whether housing will be occupied by domestic families or groups of single workers. All housing is basically family type, on farm, necessitating a dual determination of suitability.

All agency inspections are made as a part of the regular program of field visiting. About 1,350 housing units are occupied at some time during the eight-week period that migratory labor is employed in large numbers.

State housing regulations are under the administration of the State Board of Health, Division of Environmental Sanitation. That agency limits participation in inspection, but the Department is ready to investigate complaints and does test water sources.

No difficulties have been encountered in arranging co-operation. There has not been any instance when, after attempts to secure improvement or unsatisfactory housing by other means, the State Board of Health has not taken appropriate action. Five employers did not conform to housing regulations and will be denied recruitment of workers unless housing meets requirements prior to time of recruitment.



## RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

The local Farm Placement Representatives are working with rural development programs and are continuing special surveys of manpower resources, underemployment and unemployment in rural areas. They are gathering routine employment security data to be used in economic base reports and plans for rural development. However, such activities are limited from lack of personnel, equipment and finances. Therefore, only a token of rural development programs can be carried out due to the amount of travel involved and due to the fact that the greater emphasis and finances are going into urban programs. The migration influx continues from the rural areas to the urban areas. We are cooperating with all committees, community groups, state or Federal organizations to remedy the rural problems. Our agency pushes ideas to unite farmers and ranchers to helping solve their labor problems. So far, employers are not organized toward promoting central labor camps, etc.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS

State and local office personnel participated in farm organization meetings, Chamber of Commerce, civic groups, and public schools to strengthen public understanding of the Agency's Farm and rural Placement Program. Generally, the method is round table or informal discussion from the floor.

Newspaper, radio and television is used to disseminate farm labor market information. All local offices regularly prepare news releases designed for listener and reader appeal. Thousands of farm and harvest bulletins are mailed each year.

## EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Placement totals decreased slightly under the preceding year. Weather, growing and harvesting conditions varied, especially in the western part of the State where yield records were affected. This decrease was due to mechanization. The cherry crop was excellent in Polson and Kalispell. Activities, especially in livestock, grain farming and haying were superior to the previous year. This was a good harvest year. The "Youth in Sugar Beet Program" was minimized due to a good supply of domestic workers from Texas. Domestic workers were plentiful and considered very good help by most employers except during the spring and fall periods.

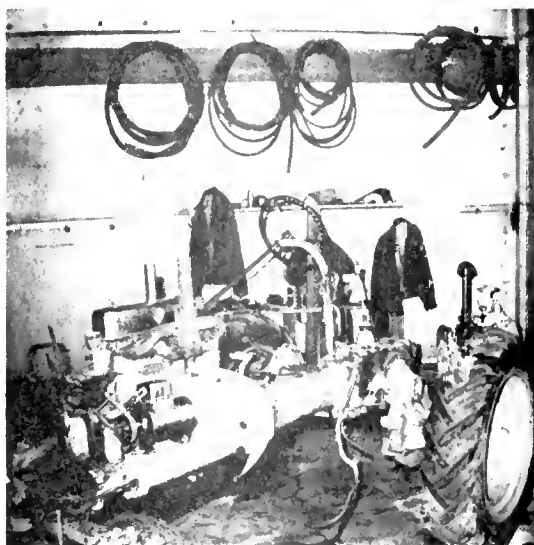
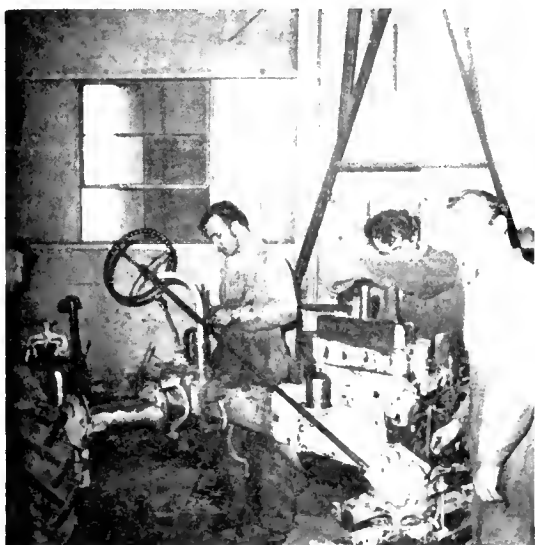
Every effort will be made to fully utilize local sources of labor, particularly in counties eligible under the Public Works and Economic Development Act. We would like to see some means of training transients at their source so that there will be more skilled workers among the transients who migrate to Montana each year.





Woods Worker - Western Montana  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)





Farm Equipment Mechanic School  
Great Falls





Glendive Sugar Beet Harvest





Farming  
Dillon Area





Raspberry Pickers are important too.  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)



## PART II

### OUTLOOK FOR COMING YEAR

#### STATE FORECAST

The outlook on agricultural employment for Montana in 1969 is that employment is expected to be slightly under 1968 pending satisfactory weather conditions. However, since 1968 was a good year, it could be that with more mechanization employment will decline perhaps to the extent of several hundred workers. Should moisture be sufficient, employment may not change to a significant extent. With usual winter conditions, the later part of the year some pickup should occur in feeding operations. Another year of increased acreage on sugar beets and grain is expected.

#### AREA FORECAST

##### AREA 9-28-01

##### Western Fruit and Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-01, Western Fruit and Sugar Beet (Flathead Lake, Missoula, Ravalli, Granite, Powell, Lewis and Clark, Jefferson, Broadwater, and Meagher Counties).

The farm labor outlook for the coming year should be slightly down from 1968 provided weather conditions are favorable. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities. Sugar beet acreage will remain on a reduced basis since this is no longer considered a primary sugar beet area. A normal cherry crop is expected with hopes of no frost damage destruction as was experienced in some years. The 1968 crop was excellent but short on tonnage due to frost.

The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Period Involved</u>
Soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-August
Haying	June-September
Irrigating	May-August
Small fruit harvest	July-August
Small grain harvest	August
Potato harvest	September
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December



AREA 9-28-02

Southern Sugar Beets

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-02, Southern Sugar Beet (Golden Valley, Musselshell, Stillwater, Yellowstone, Treasure, Carbon, and Big Horn Counties).

Again the weather will be the deciding factor. It is expected labor requirements will be under those of 1968. The supply and demand for labor in irrigated activities will be approximately the same as last year. Local and migratory labor is expected to meet demands in all activities including sugar beets. A portion of the demand will be met through youth groups in the thinning, hoeing and weeding of sugar beets. Migrant domestic workers will be available for other states following the completion of thinning and hoeing of sugar beets in July. It is expected that sugar beet acreage will be increased in this area as it was last season.

The activities and approximate time periods involved:

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May 15-July 31
Haying	June-August
Fallowing	June-September
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sweet corn harvest	August 15-Sept. 15
Field corn harvest	August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-03

Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain

Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-03, Lower Yellowstone Beet and Grain (Garfield, McCone, Richland, Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Rosebud, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, and Carter Counties).

Should moisture content repeat that of 1968, employment requirements should be the same except there could be some adjustment on sugar beet acreages. In irrigated areas there is little anticipated change. Local and migratory labor should be available for all activities including sugar beets. Demands could be less due to the success of weedacides and mechanization.



The crop activities and approximate time periods involved are:

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning, hoeing, weeding	May-July
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-September
Fallowing	May-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Sugar beet harvest	September-October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December

AREA 9-28-04

Triangle and Highline Hardwheat


Agricultural Reporting Area 9-28-04, Triangle and Highline Hard Wheat (Teton, Choteau, Cascade, Judith Basin, Hill, Blaine, Phillips, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, and Sheridan Counties).

This is primarily a dry land wheat growing and livestock area. Should sufficient moisture be received in 1968, the labor requirements may repeat. However, a dry year could make a difference. It is anticipated that local workers and voluntary in-migration of interstate workers will satisfy all demands for this area's activities.

It appears that the sugar beet acreage and the demand for labor will be the same as for 1968.

<u>Crop Activities</u>	<u>Periods Involved</u>
Spring soil preparation and seeding	April-May
Sugar beet thinning and hoeing	May-June
Haying	June-August
Irrigation	June-August
Small grain harvest	July-August
Fallowing	May-September
Sugar beet harvest	October
Livestock seasonal activities	January-December



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Bureau of Employment Security ES-225 Table I (R-10/68)		STATE MONTANA CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED 1968
SELECTED DATA ON FARM PLACEMENT OPERATIONS		
I T E M		N U M B E R
SECTION A. DAY-HAUL ACTIVITIES AT POINTS OPERATED BY STATE AGENCY		
1. Town with day-haul points. . . . .		None
2. Number of day-haul points. . . . .		None
3. Sum of days day-haul points operated during year . . . . .		None
4. Total number of workers transported during year. . . . .		None
SECTION B. SELECTED SERVICES TO SCHOOL-AGE WORKERS (under 22 years)		
5. Supervised camps <u>operated</u> for school-age farm workers. . . . .		None
a. Placements in camps. . . . .		None
6. Placements of school-age workers in supervised live-in farm homes.		None
SECTION C. SERVICES TO INDIANS LIVING ON RESERVATIONS		
7. Rendered by on-reservation local offices or at itinerant points		
a. Farm placements. . . . .		766
b. Applicant-holding acceptances. . . . .		31
8. Other farm placements of reservation Indians . . . . .		597
SECTION D. OTHER SELECTED DATA		
9. Number of local offices which held farm clinics . . . . .		None
10. Sum of days on which farm clinics were held . . . . .		None
11. Total number of local offices participating in formal community service programs . . . . .		4
12. Peak number of volunteer farm placement representatives . . . . .		139
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">           SIGNATURE              Jess C. Fletcher         </div> <div style="width: 45%;">           TITLE            Director,            Montana State Employment Service         </div> </div>		



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Bureau of Employment Security ES-225 Table 2 (R-10/68)	STATE MONTANA CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED 1968
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COMPOSITION OF INTERSTATE FARM MIGRANT GROUPS

SECTION A. MIGRANT GROUP CONTACTS			SECTION B. REPORTING STATE'S RESIDENTS		SECTION C. GROUP'S WORKING IN REPORTING STATE	
I TYPE	II BYREPORTING STATE	III REPORTING STATES RES.	I TYPE	II NUMBER	I TYPE	II NUMBER
1. Total	418		2. Total Persons		4. Families	537
a. Crew leaders	57		3. Total Workers		5. Unattached Males	282
b. Family heads	349		XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	6. Unattached Females	99
c. Other	12		XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXX


SECTION D. COMMENTS

There were no transportation problems encountered.

Housing was generally very good with some exceptions.

Re-inspections are to be made on those not up to standard prior to the recruitment clearance order.

There was a shortage of 100 workers in the Hardin area at the beginning of the season. Our effort to recruit 100 Indian workers did not materialize. Adverse weather eliminated the shortage. No other problems were encountered.

SIGNATURE  Jess C. Fletcher	TITLE Director, Montana State Employment Service
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR Bureau of Employment Security Form ES-225 Table 3 (R-10/68)	STATE MONTANA CALENDAR YEAR REPORTED 1968
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INTERSTATE SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES

ITEM	ORDERS		OPENINGS	
	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED	EXTENDED (Sec. A) RECEIVED (Sec. B)	FILLED
I	II	III	IV	V
SECTION A. REPORTING STATE AS ORDER-HOLDING STATE				
1. Reporting State, TOTAL →	7	4	2224	2221
2. Applicant-holding States involved:				
Alabama-Tennessee	1	0	1	0
Idaho	1	0	1	0
Idaho-North Dakota	1	1	1	1
Texas	1	1	20	20
Texas-Colorado	1	1	1200	1200
Texas-Colorado	1	1	1000	1000
Utah-Wyoming-Colorado	1	0	1	0
SECTION B. REPORTING STATE AS APPLICANT-HOLDING STATE				
3. Reporting State, TOTAL →				
4. Order-holding States involved:				
California	2	0	2740	35
Colorado	7	0	3520	148
Idaho	1	0	1	8
Illinois				80
Iowa	3	0	3	0
Michigan				343
Missouri	1	0	1	0
North Dakota				54
Ohio	1	0	100	23
Oregon	1	0	1	44
South Dakota	2	0	3	0
Washington				23
Wisconsin	3	0	1995	621
Wyoming	28	5	59	18

SECTION C. COMMENTS

Sugar beet worker referrals which were accepted by other states are included, some of which did not have formal clearance orders extended to Montana.

SIGNATURE  Jess C. Fletcher	TITLE Director, Montana State Employment Service
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MISS RODEO MONTANA, 21-year-old Montana State University coed Terry Jo Stephens, Dillon.





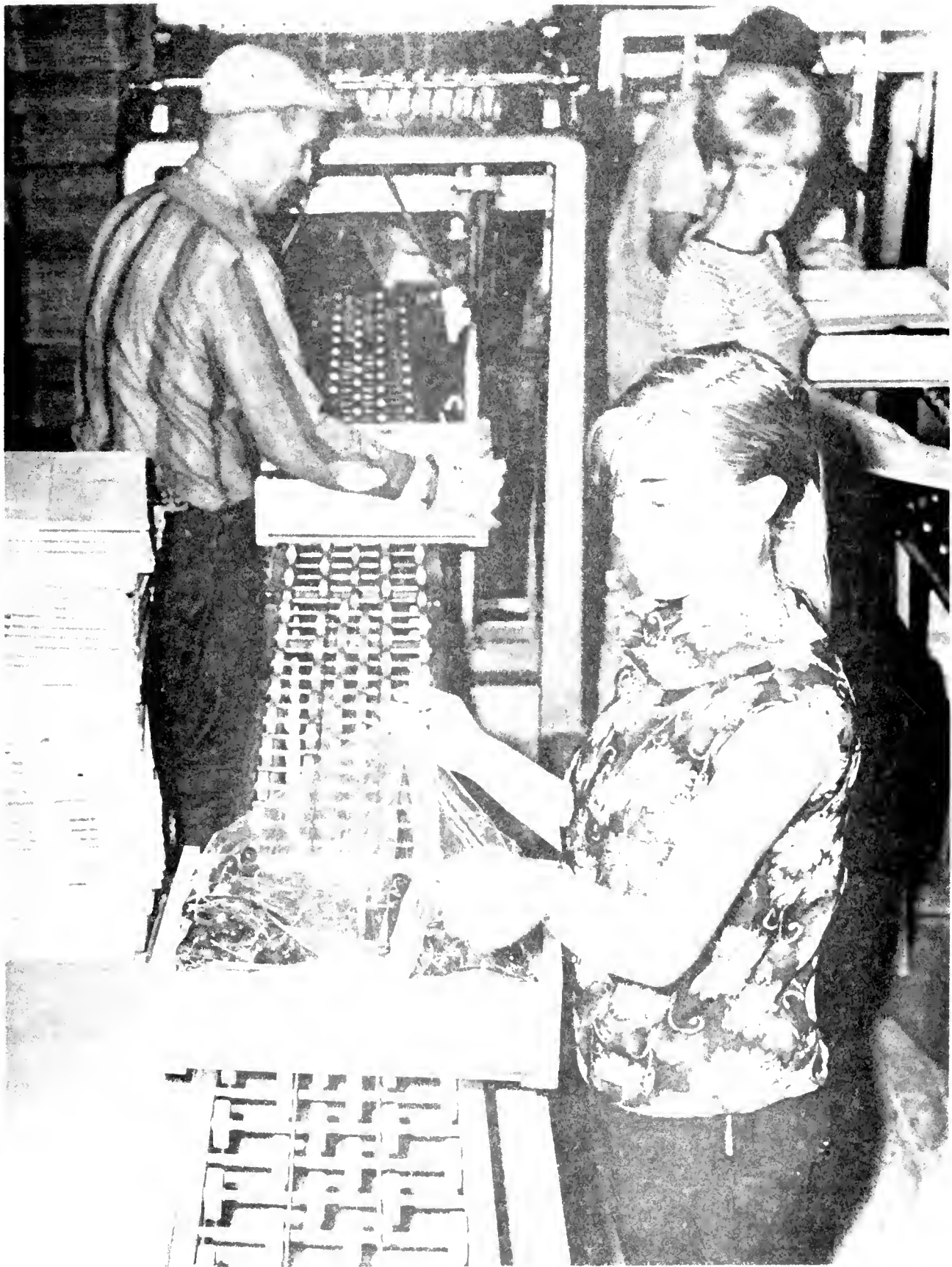
*"Miss Wool of Montana"*

(Courtesy - The Wool Grower)



Margaret Barclay, Miss Wool of Montana 1968, modeling white wool suit at the Miss Wool of Montana Pageant.





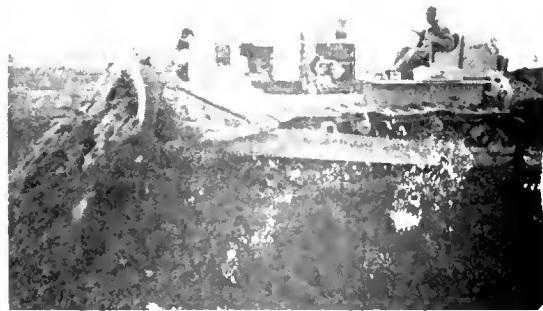
Harvest in  
Western Montana  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)





Cherry Processing  
Bitterroot Cannery.  
(Courtesy - Ravalli Republican)





Farm Equipment Operation  
Training Course - Great Falls



### PART III. ATTACHMENTS TO REPORT

#### Lists of Information Stations and Seasonal Offices.

Montana operates a Mobile office at Hardin, Montana, in the Billings local office area. This operates from April 1 through October 15th. Since this is close to the Crow and Cheyenne Indian Reservations the agency has it manned by an Indian interviewer. Occasionally he will take trips into the reservations.

Temporary farm offices are operated each year by the Great Falls local office. This is at Fort Benton in the heart of the grain country. Office space is rented during the seeding and soil preparation season in the spring usually through part of April and May. The office is set up again during the harvest from the latter part of July through the third week in August.

#### Special Studies.

Except for a sheep wage survey, no special studies were made during the 1968 season.

#### Bulletins and Promotional Materials.

Farm bulletins, farm letters, newspaper advertising, and promotional materials used during the 1968 season are included.



# Montana Farm Labor Bulletin



## FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana  
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540



August 7, 1968

Number 17

**THE SUMMARY:** Weather hot and dry. Sweet cherry harvest completed - sour cherry harvest to begin next week. Winter wheat harvest about 75% complete; grain harvest to start the latter part of week. Major activities are haying, irrigating, summer fallowing, gen farm and ranch work.

Conditions change rapidly - Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

### WESTERN

**CONDOLA:** Main activities are haying, irrigating & fencing. First cutting of alfalfa is 95% completed. Labor supply meeting demand.

**DEER:** Weather hot with showers. Major activities are haying, summer fallowing & irrigation. Experienced loose hay stackers in demand, \$10-\$12 p/da B&R.

**FLORISSON:** Haying, irrigating, fencing, summer fallowing & sheepherding are major activities. Weather very hot and very dry. Short 1 ranch couple \$380 p/mo R&B; 2 single ranch cooks \$6-\$8 p/da R&B; 6 irrigators (flood) \$225 to \$250 p/mo R&B; short 1 sheepherder \$225 p/mo B&R.

**FLORISSON:** Main activities are haying, irrigating, berry picking and gen farm and ranch work. Sour cherry harvest scheduled to begin about Aug 8th. Needs unknown at present. Labor supply ample. Weather hot and dry.

**FLORISSON:** Main activities are haying, irrigating. Showers stop hay work, mostly on native hay jobs. Grain harvest still 2 to 3 weeks away. Supply meeting demand.

**FLORISSON:** Main activities are some haying and gen farm work. Wages \$1.50 to \$2.00 p/hr. Cherry harvest complete. Labor supply meets demand. Weather cloudy and warm.

**FLORISSON:** Mop up operations on first cutting of hay and grain harvest main activities. Second cutting of hay to begin in 7-10 days. Short 1 single farmhand at \$175 p/mo B&R, 1 farm couple \$300 p/mo B&R. No activity in sheep industry.

**FLORISSON:** Weather hot and dry. Cherry harvest completed. Haying in second crop started. Harvest of grain to start in next 10 days. Labor ample at this time.

### SOUTH CENTRAL

**FLORISSON:** Activities are grain harvest, haying, irrigating & summer fallowing. Shortages are (1) farm couples at \$325 p/mo plus housing; (3) single farmhands at \$225 p/mo plus R&B; (2) combine operators at \$12.00 p/da B&R. No demand from sheep producers. Weather continues unsettled with brief scattered showers. **GRAIN HARVEST:** Grain harvest is general throughout the local office area. Yields averaging 40 bu (plus) per acre. Protein is low at 8 to 9% and weight averaging 62 lbs. Custom rates same as last year at \$3.50 per acre and 5¢ per bushel over 10. Supply of combines adequate to meet demands.

**FLORISSON:** Current activities consist of haying, irrigating, summer fallowing and preparing for grain harvest. Supply meeting demand for hay hands. Short (1) flood irrigator, \$250 p/mo R&B; (2) gen farm hands, fully qualified to operate new modern equipment. Jobs permanent for right applicant, salary \$225 and up per month. **WHEAT HARVEST:** Harvest to begin on the dryland any day now. Openings for (2) combine operators and (2) truck drivers. Wages \$20 to \$15 per day.

**FLORISSON:** Main activities are haying and harvest preparation. Weather hot with occasional showers. **HARVEST** Should begin on a graduated scale in some areas this week. Area about Florissant should begin next week. No shortage of men or machines at this time.

# Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana

Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540



PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

LOCAL - STATE - NATIONAL



# Montana Farm Labor Bulletin



## FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

U.C.C. Building — Helena, Montana  
Phone 442-3260 — Ext. 540



May 29, 1968

Number 7

**STATE SUMMARY:** Labor supply meeting the demands in most areas of the State. Weather remains unsettled with rain and light snow showers. Current activities are fencing, feeding, soil prep. summer fallowing, irrigating, gen farm and ranch maintenance.

Conditions change rapidly. Contact the nearest local office before leaving area.

### WESTERN

**CONDOLA:** Activities are potatoe and small grain planting, moving of cattle to spring pastures. Weather wet and cold. Short 1 ranch cook; no housing facilities for a woman, \$250 p/mo B&R. Short 2 experienced flood irrigators at \$300 p/mo B&R.

**DEER:** Weather cool and wet. Activities are brushing, fencing and farm maintenance. Demands for labor slow.

**GLASSBORO:** Main activities are feeding, irrigating, brushing, calving, range lambing, shearing and fencing. Weather cold with frequent rain and snow showers. Labor supply meeting the demand.

**HELENA:** Main activities are gen farm work, completion of potato seeding and irrigating. Short ranch couple \$300 p/mo plus house and fringes. Weather seasonal with rain showers. Demand for farm labor remains slow.

**HELENA:** Considerable rain past week with temperatures cool. Activities centered around irrigation of grain, hay and pasture land with continuing shortages in this category, going at \$8 to \$12 p/da. Short 2 female ranch cooks \$175-\$200 p/mo, 2 ranch couples at \$275-\$325 p/mo plus extras.

**HELENA:** Main activities gen farm work and soil prep. Potato planting 50% complete. Wages \$1.50 to \$2.00 p/hour. Weather cloudy with showers.

**HELENA:** Weather continues unsettled with sporadic rain showers. Flood and sprinkler irrigation in activities. Short 3 single farmhands at \$200 p/mo B&R. No activity in sheep industry.

**HELENA:** Weather cool and rainy. Most field work stopped. Seeding of potatoes well underway. Shortage of farm labor at this time.

### SOUTH CENTRAL

**HELENA:** Activities are sugar beet thinning, plowing, seeding, sheep shearing, field spraying and irrigating. Shortages are 1 farm couple with irrigation experience at \$300 p/mo plus housing \$20-225 p/mo B&R; 1 irrigator at \$10 p/da plus B&R and 1 tractor operator at \$12-14 p/da plus B&R. Weather unseasonably wet and cool and most field activities were temporarily retarded.

**HELENA:** Weather very damp with rain curtailing the call for farm and ranch help. Main activities fencing and gen work such as can be accomplished in wet weather. Supply and demand are about equal.

**HELENA:** Main activities are irrigating, fencing, riding and other gen ranch work. Weather with heavy rainfall has delayed some activity. Short 3 single ranch hands \$200 p/mo, 1 ranch couple \$250 p/mo and up plus housing and 2 ranch cooks, \$175 p/mo plus private quarters.

**HELENA:** Current activities are fencing, rock picking, field work, and irrigation. Weather with intermittent rains. Short 1 single, well-qualified gen farm hand to work on diversified farms; experienced in operating big diesel tractors. Wages \$225 p/mo and up plus B&R. Short 2 ranch couple, wages \$325 p/mo to start. References required. Registered Hereford ranch. Short 2 irrigators, ditch, using dams. Wages \$250 to \$325 p/mo B&R.

### NORTH CENTRAL

**HELENA:** Weather wet and has temporarily stopped all field work. Main activities are rock picking, summer fallowing, re-seeding spring wheat, and sheep shearing. Labor supply meeting demand.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

HELENA, MONTANA 59601

P. O. BOX 1728

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ACT OF CONGRESS

SGOW: Main activities are summer fallowing and weed spraying. Demand for workers slow with things being filled by transients. Weather cool and dry.

AT FALLS: Cool weather has stalled most tractor operations. Some call for general hands for irrigating, fencing, mowing, cattle, rock picking, etc. Surplus of single hands for referral to other areas. Short 3 farm couples - one without children as wife will have to cook. Wages \$100 p/mo B&R. Short 2 farm cooks at \$175 p/mo - no other women interference. No calls for herders.

RE: Rain and thunder showers curtailed most farm activity. Area received  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches of moisture. No shortage or surplus of help.

BY: Cool and rainy. Very little farm activity, wet weather is a hindrance to field work and late nights are a hindrance to growth of crops and grasses. Labor supply meeting demand.

POINT: Summer fallowing and spraying are the major activities. Some surplus of labor as herders are now available.

EASTERN

NDIVE: Weather cool and dry. Beet labor in the area - beets slow due to weather. No current openings except for dairy couples - \$350-\$400 p/mo plus housing.

NEY: Short 2 farm couples, \$300 p/mo plus usual fringes, house, utilities, milk, eggs, summer fallowing main work at present. Other activities are branding, irrigating, spraying, and tractor work. Most sugar beets up, most thinning to start June 1st.

ES CITY: Showers have curtailed most all farming activities. No great demand for farm and ranch workers this past week. We have received no openings for sheep herders.

ATTENTION FARMERS AND RANCHERS:

United States Immigration Service cautions that if you hire aliens who are illegally in the United States you may lose them when they are most needed. Aliens cannot work in the United States unless they are permanent residents and carry a greenish-blue laminated identification card, 3½ x 2½" which contains their name, entry data, photograph, etc. If you are in doubt, call the United States Immigration District Office in Helena, Montana 406-9040 or the nearest Border Patrol Station.

MONTANA STATE  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE  
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HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
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# Montana Farm Labor Bulletin

FARM PLACEMENT DIVISION  
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# Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION



AFFILIATED WITH  
UNITED STATES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1000 First Avenue South  
Great Falls, Montana

Although this letter may seem premature, I am sure that a number of you sheep producers will recall the problems encountered this last spring in getting taggers and shearers.

In order to estimate the number of crews that will be needed and approximate time that their services will be required, we would appreciate having you complete the questions listed below and returning to our office as soon as possible.

Approx Tagging Time \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Shearing Time \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Sheep \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Crew Last Year \_\_\_\_\_

In the event that shearers or taggers are made available in your community at a specified time, would you change your schedule for tagging or shearing? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Your prompt response to this letter will assist the Employment Service in better serving you.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Cady, Manager  
Great Falls Local Office

By: Roy G Young  
Farm Representative





### **FOLLOWED WHOM TO SCHOOL?**

Although his name is Algernon and he doesn't belong to Mary, the little black lamb made a surprise appearance in the Head Start classroom of Lowell Grade School Thursday. Mrs. Don Lingel, instructor, said the idea and the lamb belong to Herbert Carson, District 1 edu-

cator, and the lamb's arrival was an opportunity for the children to appreciate a "live experience." Cheryl Brester and Bradley Strength enjoy themselves with the nearly week-old fellow. (Staff Photo by Bill Beecham)

Daily Missoulian



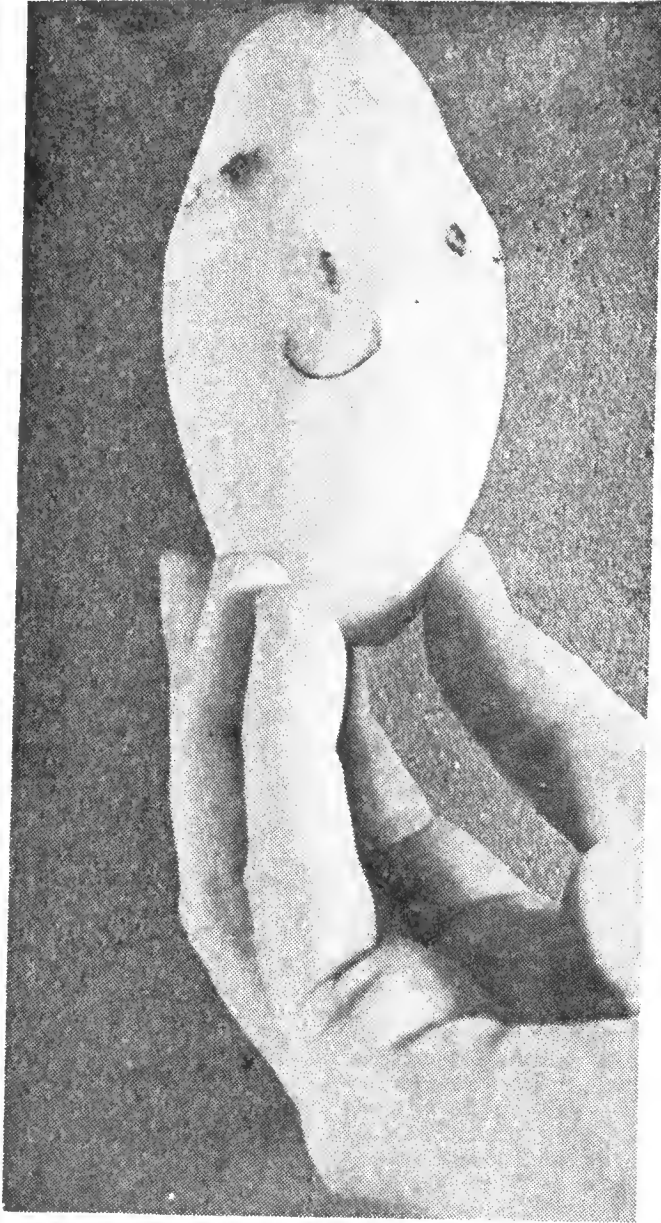


## PRACTICING FOR PARADES

CHARLO — Rudolph, a huge Scottish Highlander steer, is well known to parade watchers in many western Montana towns. Those who have viewed the majestic beast's performance as he pulls a fancy cart laden with John Scott of Charlo, his owner and trainer,

Mrs. Scott and their dog, seldom think of the hours of practice needed to keep the act running smoothly. Scott says he needs to work the 7-year-old, 1,700-pound animal every week to keep him fully trained to the reins. (Photo by Robert C. Larsson)





### ***Smiles nice — keep you off the menu***

Well, there was this housewife peeling potatoes and she had the feeling she was being stared at. When she looked down into the sink there was this happy smiling face looking up at her. Stripped of its peelings, the natural indentations and eyes of the spud showed up its real inner self. And who could boil, mash and eat such a charmer? (Mark Kron Photo of a Jean Freese Potato)



### ***April lamb small giant***

A lamb of probably record size was born this week on the Keith Johnson ranch at Kinsey. Weighing exactly 20 pounds at birth, the lamb was normal and healthy. The large lamb (black one above) was photographed beside an 11-pound lamb born the same day for comparison. At the opposite end of the spectrum, a Plevna rancher was reported to have a 16-pound calf at his ranch which is so small it cannot reach its mother's udder.



# Swift Changes Coming To American Farms

By JIM CRANE  
Missoulian Farm Editor

The hottest farm issue in decades — collective bargaining — will be considered in the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee beginning today.

Behind the problem is the realization that, while much of the rest of the country is happy and prosperous, agriculture in general is getting depression-level prices for its products but paying inflated prices for what it buys.

Collective bargaining has been endorsed by most major farm organizations except the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Farmer co-ops which market lemons, raisins and other special crops have done well. So far, groups which have tried to market nationwide crops such as beef or grain have been largely unsuccessful.

The National Farm Organization, now organized in at least a dozen Montana counties, has tried and failed to produce substantial commodity price increases through much-publicized holding actions.

Why haven't the holding actions been successful? The history of agriculture — up until now — has been one of strict independence. Small businessmen face the same problem in trying to cooperate with other small businesses. "You produce and sell your way and I'll produce and sell my way" has been the general scheme.

This plan generally worked well until mechanization, urbanization and population combined to make consumers more powerful than producers in the market place.

Now the consumer holds the key to farm income and he's not about to pay any more

than is absolutely necessary for food. In the last 20 or so years the amount of disposable income per family spent for food has dropped from about 25 per cent to 17 per cent.

The basic solution seems to boil down to three alternatives:

1. Farmers can continue to rely on the rapid technological advances that have allowed them to stay in business despite profits that continue to slide nearer to the loss column.

2. Farmers can allow a farm organization such as the Farmers Union, Grange or Farm Bureau to market their products.

3. Or farmers can look to the federal government to market the products at a guaranteed price, but with necessary added controls on production.

Technology has only begun to have its effects on farming. The future holds marvelous promise for improved varieties and farm methods. It'll take more capital and skill to remain in agriculture in years to come.

This seems to be the best answer to the marketing problem. Expanding world population and the resulting increased world demand for food will play a more important role in prices in the future than government controls.

Agriculture should try to compete on a world level—not just in the United States. The restrictions necessary in collective marketing through the government or through a farm co-op will tend to under-emphasize the importance of the world food problem.

Agriculture's potential is only beginning to be realized. It would be a shame to tie farming tighter to the slow-moving reactions of institutionalized controls.

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## The Missoulian

Founded May 1, 1873

Wednesday, April 3, 1968



# Problem of Lack of Farm Workers Is Not New to State of Montana

By CARLA BECK  
Staff Writer

The latest report of a cowboy shortage no doubt evoked some nostalgia plus a few chuckles. But while it is not a laughing matter, neither is it a new problem.

Rod Young of the Montana Employment Service reports it was a headache in the early 1900s. Clement White, in an article in a 1915 issue of "The Farming Business" magazine cites the problems of that day: rapid turnover of workers and lack of experienced workers in many phases of farming.

Higher wages and better working conditions continue to draw workers from the rural areas.

An average of 800 year-round farm workers are employed in the Great Falls area, Montana Employment Service estimates. In addition, there are the seasonal workers. These number as few as 300 in January, the slowest month, rising to around 3,500 during the harvest.

Here's how these workers are described: Year-round workers are older, settled down, reliable and many are married. Seasonal workers include the school boys working during vacation. But most are from 35-45 years old and are often rejects from other occupations.

What does the farm worker receive for his labor? If single, he is paid anywhere from \$175 to \$300 per month with board and room, depending on the type of work the man is doing. The lower amount would be paid during the winter months, when cattle feeding is the main chore. It is claimed very few are completely skilled at any one phase of farm or ranch work.

If the man is married, he is paid from \$300 to \$500 per month. In the majority of cases, room and board is included also if the wife works, such as cooking for the crew. If only the man is hired, then board would not be provided. However, a house and utilities are furnished in almost all cases.

The farm worker is generally covered by Social Security. The seasonal worker will probably receive below-normal payments since his work is irregular. Under a new amendment, his

monthly check will probably be between \$75-\$85.

Farm workers are not covered by unemployment compensation insurance.

He is covered by industrial accident insurance only if his employer makes those provisions. Employment service officials said it is thought most farmers cover employees to protect themselves, either through the state Industrial Accident Bureau or through private insurance. It is not mandatory.

Bigger outfits sometimes offer health insurance on a share basis for their permanent employees.

Fringe benefits offered as an incentive to keep the farmhand on the farm include such items as farm produce (maybe milk, eggs, a side of beef and a side of pork a year, possibly vegetables), while others will allow the man to run a few head of stock of his own or maybe give him a few acres of crop.

A good example of this is the IX Ranch at Big Sandy, operated by Art Roth. Since Roth's operation is primarily cattle, his demand for hired help is continuous through the year. Therefore, he is quite conscious of the welfare of his employees.

His experiences in the past have proved that married couples are a good investment and he has paid key employees wages of \$350 to \$500 per month. Included are housing, utilities, vacation, health insurance, meat, milk and other ranch produce. In addition to these incentives, a man may be allowed to run a number of his own cattle.

Another example of the utilization of available manpower is that of a large dryland farm northeast of Great Falls operated by Gene Groghan. Since his farm is near town, Croghan

has been fortunate in being able to draw a substantial number of farm equipment operators from Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Due to the size of his operation and the number of tractors available, he has been able to distribute the work load to fit in with the men's available time. Most of the men he hires come from farming families or have had experience in operating heavy equipment. In order to encourage dependability in reporting for work, Croghan offers the young workers a wage of between \$2 and \$2.25 per hour, which has proved successful.

The permanent worker is given more consideration. Yet scarcely any segment of agriculture could move its crops off the land without the seasonal employee. He might not be used by any one employer more than two weeks at a time or a month and a half total over a season. The bigger operators can keep him longer by having him repair equipment and doing other chores. If he's working on a small place, he's got to find another job when he's through there.

When winter comes, approximately 3,000 leave to go south or to work in the fruit orchards and the warehouses on the coast. It is estimated that about half of the seasonal workers remaining here in the winter will receive some sort of public assistance.





## **MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE**

**MOBILE OFFICE**

**NOW OPEN TO SERVE YOU**

**LOCATED AT THE HARDIN TRAILER COURT**

**308 NORTH MILES—PHONE 665-1935**

**OFFICE HOURS 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON**

Billings Local Office



June 27, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

Clarence H. Nybo, Manager  
Billings Local Office  
Montana State Employment Service  
Telephone 252-5631

Row crop workers employed in the sugar beet fields in the Hardin area were urged to remain on the job as long as possible because of late starting dates in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin where many of these Hardin area workers intend to go, it was reported by Clarence H. Nybo, Manager of the Billings Employment Service office. Telephone calls to the Farm Labor Service in these two states indicate that the labor supply is adequate and the cucumber harvest is expected to start July 20th in Michigan and July 25th in Wisconsin. Nybo said workers should not plan to arrive in the area more than five days before the starting dates. A light frost also resulted in a short cherry crop in Michigan which has decreased the demand for workers there this year.

The Employment Service Manager said that most of the workers in the area can find employment in sugar beets up to July 15th and the fact that crops are late in the other states could prove beneficial in alleviating a temporary labor shortage in the Hardin area.

Full information on out of area working conditions can be obtained by contacting the Montana State Employment Service representative, Mr. John Anderson, who is located at the Hardin Trailer Court in Hardin, Montana.



# Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION



AFFILIATED WITH  
UNITED STATES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1000 First Avenue South  
Great Falls, Montana

Dear Sir:

In a matter of days the golden grain will again be pouring from the spouts of combines into granaries to complete your "payday" for this year.

With bumper crops expected, more workers will be needed to help complete harvest activities.

Your Great Falls Employment office is prepared to help you find these additional workers.

Raising food crops for our nation's millions is your business. Recruiting, selecting, and referring workers to help you harvest your crops is our business.

We are proud to be able to give you this service, without charge.

This year don't spend your valuable time looking for harvest or other farm workers. Telephone, write, or drop into your Great Falls Employment Office and ask one of our trained Employment Service people to refer qualified workers to fit your particular needs.

Sincerely yours,

Bill Cady, Manager  
Great Falls Local Office

By: Roy O Young  
Farm Representative



# Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION



AFFILIATED WITH  
UNITED STATES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

324 West Broadway  
Lewistown, Montana

Dear Sir:

We are again approaching a new growing season. Many of you are already planning your farm and ranch activities for spring. This will require, in many instances, the hiring of help.

The only way to assure that these hands are ready when needed is for all parties---workers, employers, and the Employment Service--to work together.

We are here to help you, and to work with you, in your need for good men. By keeping a good hand employed, the temptation to seek other work is reduced. We must continue to utilize the current help in the most efficient manner. Your Farm Placement Representative, Clare Jensen, will be contacting many of you soon to further discuss your labor needs.

There is no charge for these services. Our main interest is to assist you in finding men when you need them. Please feel welcome to call at our office at 324 West Broadway--in the Masonic Building--, or phone 538-3286.

Sincerely yours,

Don Ferguson, Manager  
Lewistown Local Office



# Montana State Employment Service

DIVISION OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT  
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COMMISSION



AFFILIATED WITH  
UNITED STATES  
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

1000 First Avenue South  
Great Falls, Montana

## FARM LABOR PROBLEMS AS THEY ARE TODAY

By: Roy O. Young  
Montana State Employment Service

Labor is one of the major problems and one of the major cost items on farms today. This is one of the reasons that many operators are going to bigger equipment wherever practical. This fact is not new to the farm employer inasmuch as it was a noticeable headache in the early 1900's when the demand for hand labor was much greater than it is today.

This fact was brought out in an article by Clement White in the September 11, 1915 issue of "The Farming Business" magazine. The problems of the farmers and ranchers during this period were very much similar to those that we encounter today, not only in the short duration of workers on the job, but also the lack of experience in many phases of the farming operation. Mr. White stated in his article that the demand for more qualified workers was increasing more and more each year. This fact is definitely true today due to the tremendous change in farming operations. Not only has equipment become more complicated by systems of operation have changed to more complex procedures.

One often wonders what is happening to the more experienced farm workers. Surveys have indicated that due to rapid increases in wages and better working conditions in industrial and other related fields, that the migration has continuously been away from farm work and into these phases of employment.

In spite of the fact that agricultural employers are being caught in a "cost of operation and return on investment squeeze," they realize that something must be done to combat this migration of workers out of the agriculture picture. Some employers have given this problem some very serious thought and have offered certain incentives to their workers in order to hold them on the job.

One good example of this is the IX Ranch at Big Sandy, Montana which is operated by Mr. Art Roth. Since Mr. Roth's operation is primarily cattle, his demands for hired help is continuous throughout the entire year; and, therefore, he is quite conscious of the welfare of his employees. His experiences in the past have proven that married couples for his operation have proven to be a good investment and has paid his key employees substantial wages of \$350 to \$500 per month which includes housing, utilities, vacation with pay, participation in a group health insurance plan, meat, milk, and other produce of the ranch. In addition to these incentives, wherever practical and the man's abilities warrant it, he is allowed to run a specified number of cattle of his own.



Another example of the utilization of available man power is by Mr. Gene Croghan who operates a large dryland farm N.E. of Great Falls. Due to being within commuting distance of Great Falls, Mr. Croghan has been fortunate in being able to draw a substantial number of farm equipment operators from Malmstrom A.F.B. Due to the size of his operation and the number of tractors available, he has been able to distribute the work load of his operation to fit in with the available time of the men on hand. Most of the men he hires come from farming families throughout the nation or have had experience in the past in the operation of heavy equipment. In order to encourage dependability in reporting for work, Mr. Croghan offers a better than average wage of between \$2.00 to \$2.25 per hour which has proven successful in getting the job done.

Incentives such as have been mentioned are becoming more evident daily in attracting workers back into this type of work. I am sure that many farmers and ranchers will readily recall that some years back we used to experience quite a migration of young workers from North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, but this migration has all but stopped. This has been due to higher wages being paid in these states along with other types of work being made available to them.

Many farm operators are conscious of this dilemma and have expressed their opinion on various factors in attempting to lure the experienced workers back into farm employment. These opinions have varied from offering bonuses, shares of crops, and an agreement to cover the worker with unemployment insurance if it were available to them.

In order to solve this labor problem, the employer is definitely going to have to take the first step. He will have to make the job more appealing or attractive before the ex farm hands are going to take heed and move back into this pattern of work.

In the Farm Business Management Conference held in Great Falls on December 11 and 12, a number of these points were brought out along with a multitude of other suggestions on the proper operations of the modern farms of today. Anyone interested in the publication of this Conference, I am sure, will find it quite valuable, inasmuch as many of the suggestions and facts brought out in it will be very helpful in the proper operation of the farm as a business as it must be classified today. This publication is available through The Montana State University Cooperation Extension Service at Bozeman, Montana





## Farm Exodus to Affect Towns, Cities

Montana's farms are shrinking in numbers at a rate much faster than was anticipated a few years ago.

The Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service in Helena estimated Thursday that 27,100 farms will be in operation in the state this year, 500 less than in 1967.

Montana will have about the same number of acres, 67,100,000, in cropland this year. However, that's a boost since 1960 when 66,700,000 acres were in cropland.

The size of Montana farms now average 2,476 acres, up from 2,104 acres in 1960.

The Dakotas are losing farms even faster than Montana. North Dakota, with 45,000 farms, has 2,000 less than in 1967. South Dakota, with 48,500 farms, has 1,500 less than in 1967. Idaho, with 29,400 farms, has 600 less this year and Wyoming, with 8,900, has 100 less.

In 1965, the Upper Midwest Economic Study, published by the University of Minnesota, reported the average number of farms in Montana in the

1954-58 period was 35,150 and predicted that the number of farms in the state would drop to 29,500 by 1975.

The estimates released Thursday show that the loss of farms in Montana is occurring at a more rapid pace than experts forecast even a few years ago.

The loss of small marginal farms may be inevitable under our present agricultural policies but the dramatic migration of rural families from farm communities to the cities poses serious questions for Montana towns, the cities, our school systems and the state.

All agricultural states are facing the same trend of the population flow to the cities. That shift of population has been one of the primary causes for the crisis conditions in many of the nation's largest cities.

It will pay Montana to start thinking seriously about the declining numbers of its farms and the shift of rural families to the cities.

10 Great Falls Tribune Friday, January 12, 1968



**NO PLAYTHING** — Snowmobiles are being pushed as a new toy for winter fun, but Montana ranchers who have been paralyzed by blizzards the last month find these over-the-snow vehicles essential for keeping track of their cattle. Bill Shirley, right, hauls

hay to his herd of Angus cows in the Eden area. Helping is his neighbor, Vince Marko. Shirley made a skid from the trunk lid of an old car for hauling bales from the stack to the feeding ground. (Staff Photo)



# Migrant workers school proves success

By Mrs. Howard Viall

KINSEY — The term "humming with activity" is a mild description of the Kinsey School building any weekday since the school for the children of migrant workers began June 5.

The day I visited, when I stepped into the hall, Don McDaniel, counselor and supervisor for the schools at Kinsey, Terry and Sidney, and Don Bogut, counselor and crafts teacher at the Kinsey School, were busy setting up a closed circuit television camera and video tape recorder to make some tapes to be shown at other schools.

In an adjoining room a group of children were practicing songs for a program they plan to give for their parents near the end of school. The next room had a group busy making invitations for the same program. On the stage in the gym a leathercraft class was tapping away with some pupils on the side doing wood-burning. In the nursery some little folks were having a nap and some were looking at picture books. In the kitchen the cooks were busy preparing a wholesome lunch. The whole impression was one of enthusiasm and industry.

Now, what is the practical use of such a school? Surely these youngsters attend school near their homes in Texas.

Because most of the migrant workers leave home by May first and do not get back until November, the children have only about six months of school. For that reason it has been the policy of their home schools to concentrate on the academic side of education with little time spent on art, drama and even P.E. In fact the schools are so overcrowded that there is almost no time for personal contact with the pupils. This type of education served fairly well for field work such as these people have done for generations. With the coming of more and more versatile machines and the greater use of chemicals to control weeds it is becoming very evident that by the time these youngsters are adults most of them will have to turn to other occupations.

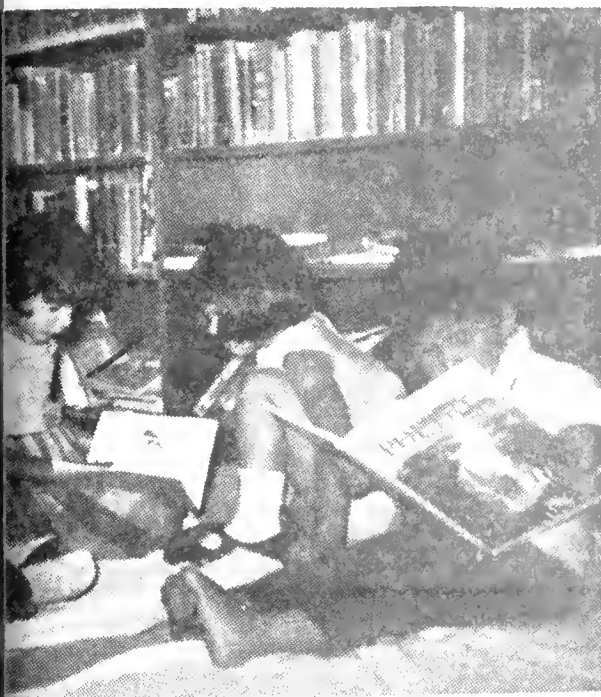
The prime objects of these schools are to teach self confidence, a good relationship with Caucasians and a realization that they can do other things than their people have done in the past.

Four years ago, after the passage of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) under the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the first of these schools was established in Texas and the program has spread rapidly to other states. This is the second year for Montana but the first year for the school at Kinsey.

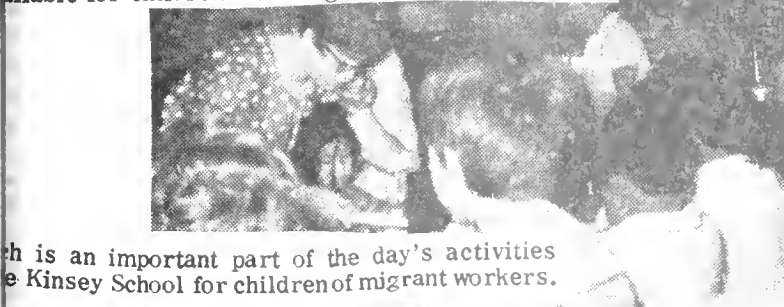
Thirty-four youngsters ranging in age from 2½ to 13 years old are enrolled at the Kinsey school. The funds are Federal but the Administration is under the direction of the Montana Department of Public Instruction with Loren Frazier as state supervisor.

As near as possible local persons were employed to run the school. The cooking is done by Mrs. Dale Shipman and Mrs. Leonard Walker, who cook for the regular Kinsey school hot lunch program. The regular buses driven by their owners, Bernard Beckman and Devere Ferris, are employed for the transportation. Two local high school graduates, Marlene Ingraham and Myrna Mulkey, work as student helpers and Mrs. Jerome Viall is registered nurse employed by the school. All are local people.

None of the workers employed at Kinsey had ever worked on this kind of program. However, Mrs. Margaret Hertzog, supervisor of the Kinsey school, teaches in a Mex-American school in California. Here Mrs. Hertzog teaches language and arts. Many of the small children had never learned their colors or been taught nursery rhymes or stories. Under her direction the youngsters have written letters to thank the personnel of all the places they have visited in Miles City and anyone else who has done anything "nice" for them. Here is a letter one boy wrote to the school cooks,



Young Mexican Americans concentrate on books available for children attending the school.



Reading is an important part of the day's activities at the Kinsey School for children of migrant workers.

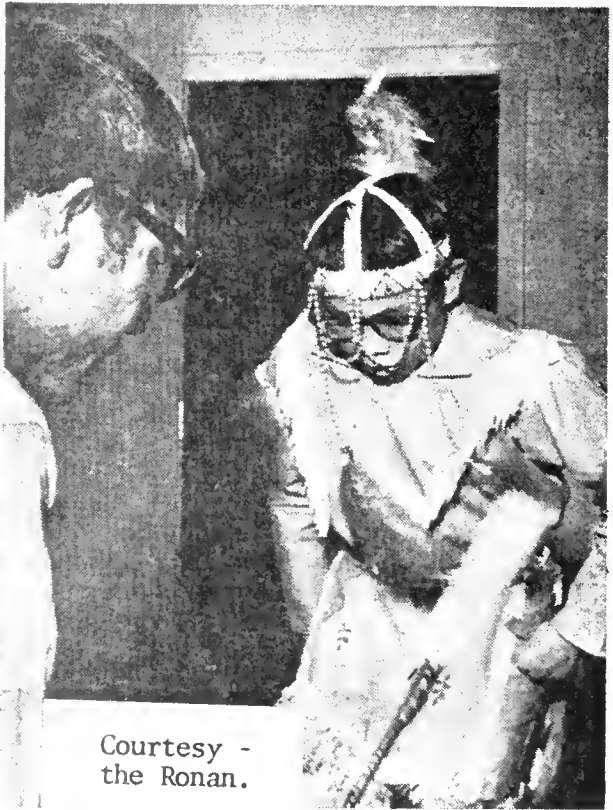


Registered nurse Mrs. Jerome Viall comforts Gabriel, 2½, while twin sister Grace looks on.





Oil Celebration Secretary Helen Ricker is seated on a star quilt, and surrounded by four Sioux Head Dresses in celebration parade.



Courtesy - the Ronan.

**DANCING TO DAD'S DRUM**

Norman Brady pounds out the rhythm on the drum while his son, Robert, dances. Robert and his sister, Charlene, have won contests for their dancing ability, and recently won another during the Christmas holidays. Staff Photo by Nils Rosdahl)

**MSU TO HONOR CHIEF**

Montana State University at Bozeman will honor Barney Old Coyote, 45, this weekend with an honorary doctorate for

achievement in the War on Poverty. Old Coyote, a Crow, is assistant to Interior Secretary Stewart Udall. (AP Photofax)



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1968

# ATTENTION

## Mr. Wayne Purdum

Your Montana State Employment Service Representative from Great Falls will be at the Commissioner's Room, Co. Court House in

FORT BENTON, MONTANA

**Thursday, April 18th**

from

9:00 A. M. to 11:00 A. M.

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 1968

# NOTICE!

## Farmers and Ranchers

FORT BENTON, GERALDINE, CARTER  
and LOMA AREAS

The Montana State Employment Service Will  
Open A Temporary Labor Office

**April 3 through April 30th, 1968**

LOCATION:—PASTIME BARBER SHOP  
1406 FRONT ST. IN FORT BENTON

CONTACT

**DALE DE VAULT**

Call 622-3715 Fort Benton

**PLACE YOUR FARM ORDER NOW!!**

Wednesday, June 19, 1968

**JUDITH BASIN PRESS**

## ATTENTION:

### MR. DALE DeVAULT

Your Montana State Employment Service Representative from Great Falls will be at the COUNTY COURT HOUSE in STANFORD on THURSDAY, JUNE 27TH from 1:00 to 4:00 P. M.

MR. WAYNE PURDUM, Job Corps Representative, will also be here at that time.

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls.

Thursday, June 20, 1968

THE CHOTEAU ACANTHA

# ATTENTION

## MR. WAYNE PURDUM

Your Montana State Employment  
Service Representative from Great Falls  
will be at the

County Comm. Office in Choteau

**Wednesday, June 26, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.**

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls.





Sidney L.O. Area

Sheep shearing operation in Richland County. Custom shearers make quick work of a band of sheep. The work is hard, dirty and backbreaking requiring a special worker to be able to withstand the hard work and the mobility problems.

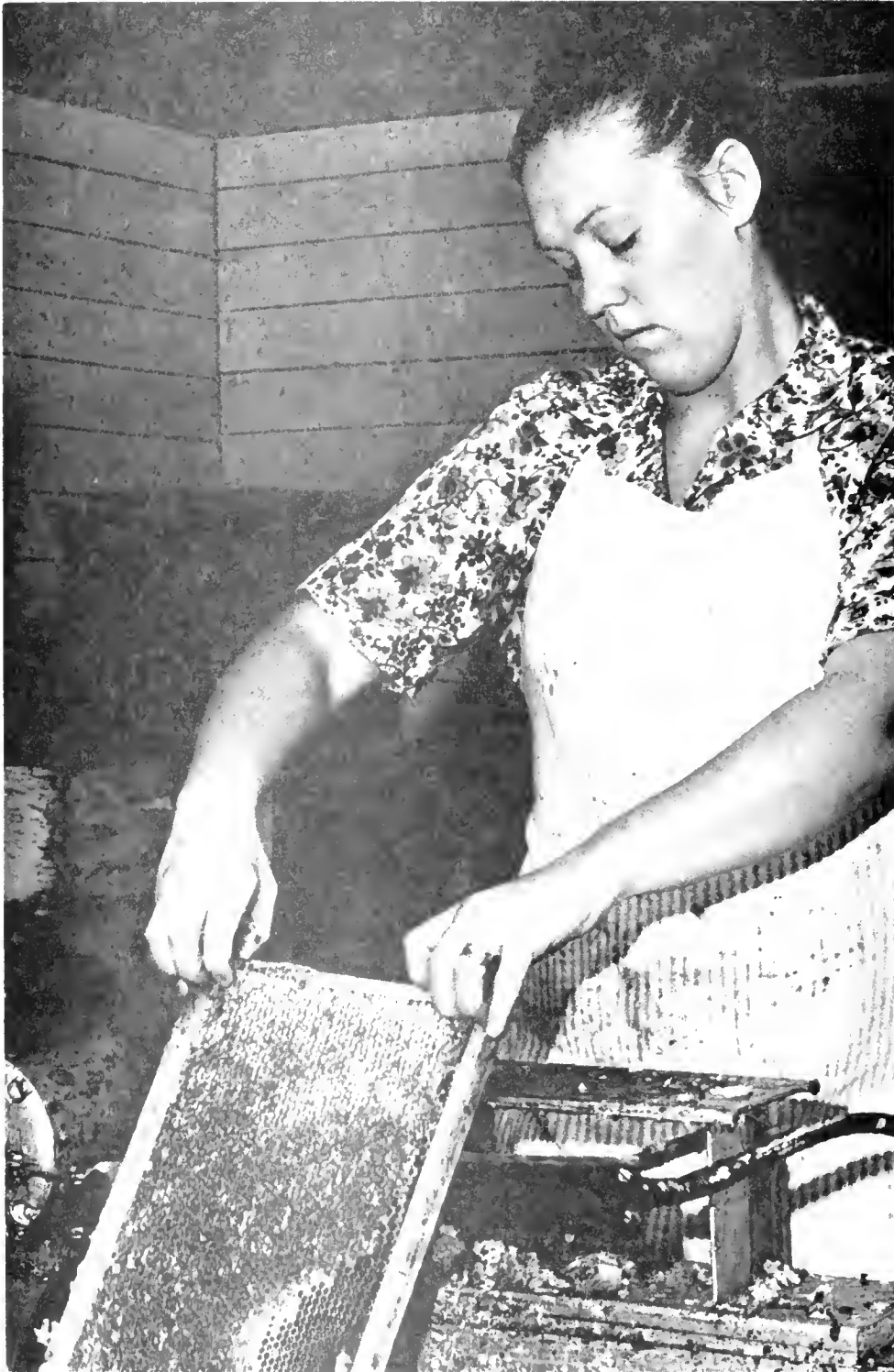






Hay Harvest in the Bozeman valley.  
(Bozeman Local Office)





Honey Worker - Western Montana  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)



SIDNEY LOCAL OFFICE AREA



Beet trucks waiting to unload after being weighed in.



A MOUNTAIN of sugar beets. Thousands of tons of sugar beets are stockpiled by Holly Sugar until they can be refined during late fall and winter.



Christmas Tree Harvest in  
Western Montana  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)

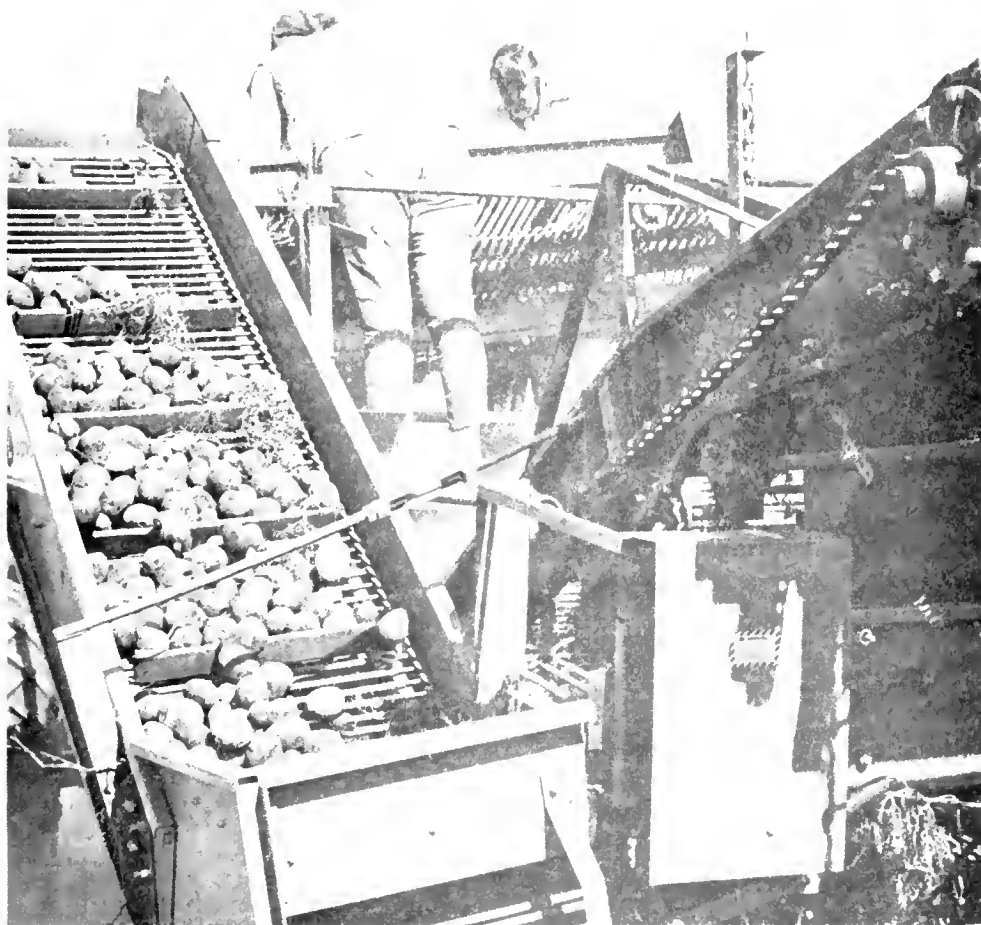




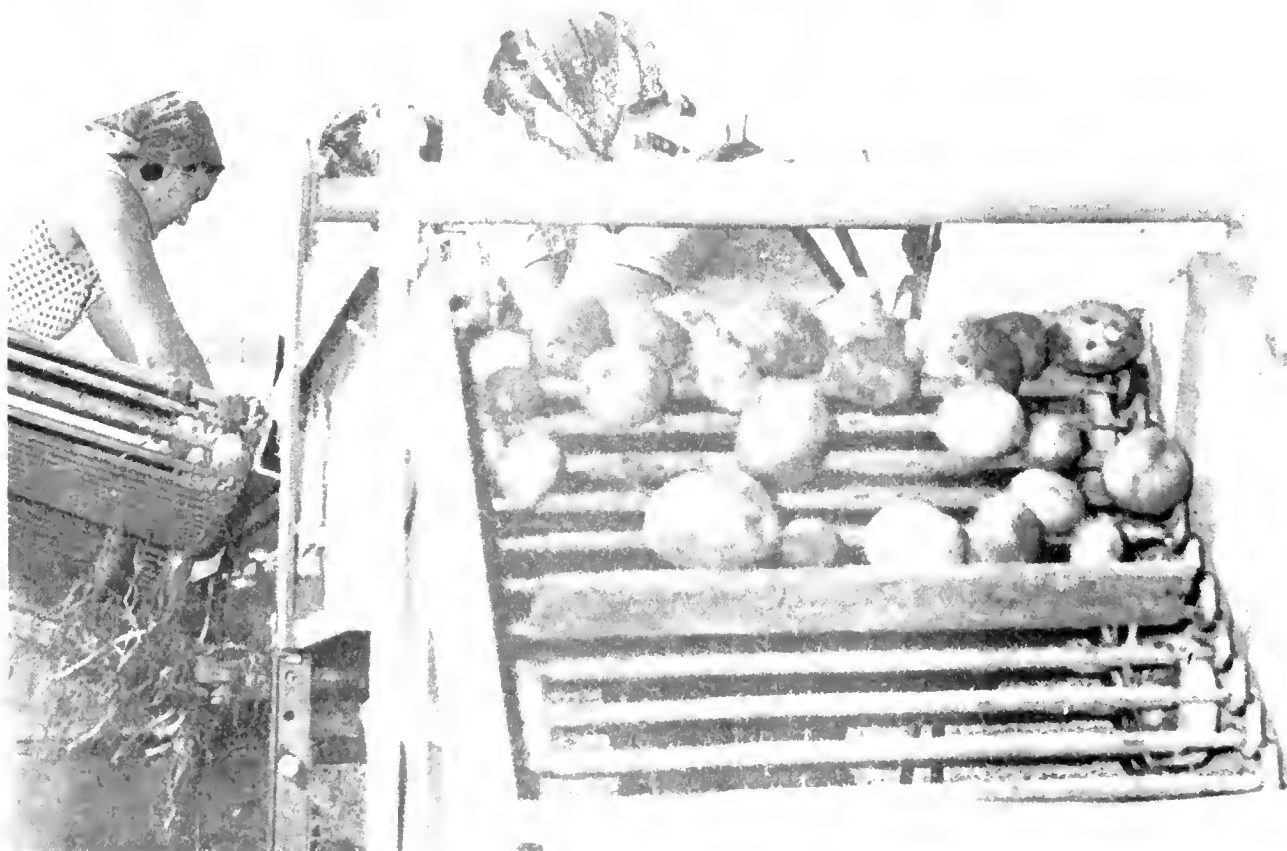


The carrot harvest isn't too bad either.  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)





Potato Harvest - Western Montana  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)





# Farm Worker Force Down Less in Montana

The number of farm workers in Montana has dropped only 1 per cent since 1960, compared with 21 per cent in North Dakota and Minnesota, according to the monthly statistical report of the Ninth District Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis.

At the same time, according to the report, wage rates for hired farm laborers run higher in Montana than in the other states.

The average cash rate per hour for farm workers, without board and room, is \$1.08 for the district, \$1.03 in South Dakota and \$1.12 in Montana.

"In the aggregate, however, all states in the district have experienced wage increases on the order of 20-22 per cent since 1960," the report continues.

"In spite of the high relative wage increases since 1960, agricultural wage rates for hired laborers are still considerably lower than are wages for the district's manufacturing employees who currently aver-

age about \$2.78 per hour," the report adds.

Farm family members make up about 85 per cent of the total farm work force in the district, but the most rapid rate of decrease in farm workers is found among hired laborers, reflecting the impact of the technological shifts in farm production methods, the report says.

During the period 1960-67, the average number of family workers declined by 19 per cent, while the average number of hired workers decreased by 29 per cent.

Here again Montana deviates from the district average substantially, the report says, as the number of hired workers in this state actually increased by 14 per cent since 1960.

Great Falls Tribune  
Great Falls Local Office Area



## State Loses 500 More Farms in '67

Montana lost another 500 farms in 1967.

Estimates of the Montana Crop and Livestock Reporting Service indicate 27,100 farms will be in operation in Montana during 1968, 500 less than 1967.

However, according to the estimates, the same number of acres remains in farmland, 67,100,000.

While Montana farms averaged 2,104 acres at the beginning of this decade, they now average 2,476. A big factor in Montana would seem to be that more acreage is being turned into farmland. In 1960, the land in farms was estimated by the report at 66,700,000 acres. Today it is estimated at 67,100,000, nearly half a million acres more.

The number of farms and the land in farms in states bordering Montana are: Idaho — 29,400 farms (600 less than 1967); 15,400,000 acres (same as 1967).

Wyoming — 8,900 farms (100 less than 1967); 37,000,000 acres (same as 1967).

South Dakota — 48,500 (1,500 less than 1967); 45,500,000 acres (100,000 acres less than 1967).

North Dakota — 45,000 farms (2,000 less than 1967); 42,000,000 acres (same as 1967).







Trimmer - Western Montana  
Woods work  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)



# Sugar Wage Hike Taken in Stride

A minimum wage boost set by the Agriculture department for sugar beet workers will have little effect on Billings and Montana sugar production, officials say.

The rate was boosted from \$1.40 to \$1.50 an hour, and piecework rates were boosted by 50 cents an acre for weeding, and \$1.50 an acre for blocking and thinning.

The department won't pay sugar beet subsidies to agricultural employers who pay help below minimum wages.

Ralph Hettinger, manager of Great Western Sugar Co., said he wasn't surprised by the rate increase. The government has

increased rates the past seven years, he said.

HE THOUGHT most farmers expected the boost.

"We're not against it," he said. The company favors a fair return for labor and it also expects a fair price for its products, he explained.

Clarence Nybo, of the Montana State Employment Service, said "it's not going to have a big effect. There have been quite a number of those workers who have averaged this rate anyhow" in previous years.

He said the rates are established after hearings. He doubted (Continued on Page 12, Col. 6.)

## Sugar

ed they would affect either employment or acreage.

A spokesman at the County Extension Service said the beet growers do such an excellent job informing and regulating themselves that the county has little contact with them, and could not say what impact the wage boosts would have.

HETTINGER expressed great pleasure with the recent rains, which he said were general throughout this beet growing district. Prior to the rains, he said, beet farmers were irrigating about 10,300 acres.

He said the beet season is well underway. About 32,700 acres have been seeded in this district; thinning has commenced; and 145 domestic workers have arrived.

## Montana Standard's page of opinion

4—Butte-Anaconda, Montana, Tuesday, January 30, 1968

# Down on the farm

A lot of city folk still cherish some romantic notions about life down on the farm. They see the farm as a place where a farmer and his family and maybe a hired hand, always with an eye to the weather, plough and plant and in due time reap the harvest. The truth is that modern farming is vastly more complicated than this bucolic vision suggests.

For one thing, farming is on a much bigger scale these days than it was when middle-aged city dwellers formed their boyhood impressions. Corporate farming on huge acreages is not uncommon now, and the average size of the family farm has risen steadily over the years.

In times to come, farmers are going to be under even more pressure to expand as a way of reduc-

ing unit costs. This was pointed up the other day by H. B. Howell, an Iowa State University extension economist. "With farm labor wages rising faster than other costs, and with the operator's labor being one of the largest fixed costs in the farm business," he said, "pressures to spread this cost over a larger volume are going to be stronger. In addition, anticipated lower commodity prices in 1968 will exert more pressure in this direction."

Thus it can be seen that the size of a farm operation plays a role second in importance only to management ability as a factor in success or failure. The traditional idea of the farm as a nice place in the country where people do about what farmers have done since time immemorial is out of date, and becoming more so.





(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)

HAND WORK hasn't been totally eliminated from sugar beets as Joe Zuniga, who is pulling weeds from sugar beets in the field of Otto Quast, Corvallis. Beet growers are concerned

with crop prospects this year, although only time will tell how much sugar content the beets will have. (Staff Photo by Jim Crane)



The Federally sponsored, expense-paid training course for farm hands and farm equipment repair was recently completed at Great Falls. This course was organized and directed through the cooperation of the local office of the Montana State Employment Service at Great Falls, Opportunities, Inc., and The Adult Education Division of the Great Falls School System.

All trainees in this course had to meet the fundamental requirements of the program in order to be eligible to participate. The criteria included primarily of being in a low-income bracket, head of household, unemployed or underemployed, come from a minority group, and meet the requirements required through CATB Testing.

Through the able supervision of Toby Talifson, this course was considered to be one of the most successful completed in Montana. In addition to complete dismantling and mechanical repair of both wheel and crawler equipment, tune-up training was given on small stationery engines and component parts of other equipment such as starters, generators, hydraulic systems. On equipment utilized during this course in addition to mechanical overhaul, the chassis were completely scraped down and spray painted with new decals placed in the appropriate places. In many cases, the equipment when completed could not be distinguished from new equipment except for design.

In addition to receiving approximately 280 hours of equipment maintenance and repair, the students receive 30 hours of both electric and acetelyne welding. To climax the course, when waather permitted all of the students went into the field and were given training in the operation of all types of farming equipment and farming methods.

Due to the success of this program and the interest shown by both the students and prospective employers, it is felt that the continuance of this program on an annual basis is strongly recommended.







**Local grower  
doesn't field  
small melons**

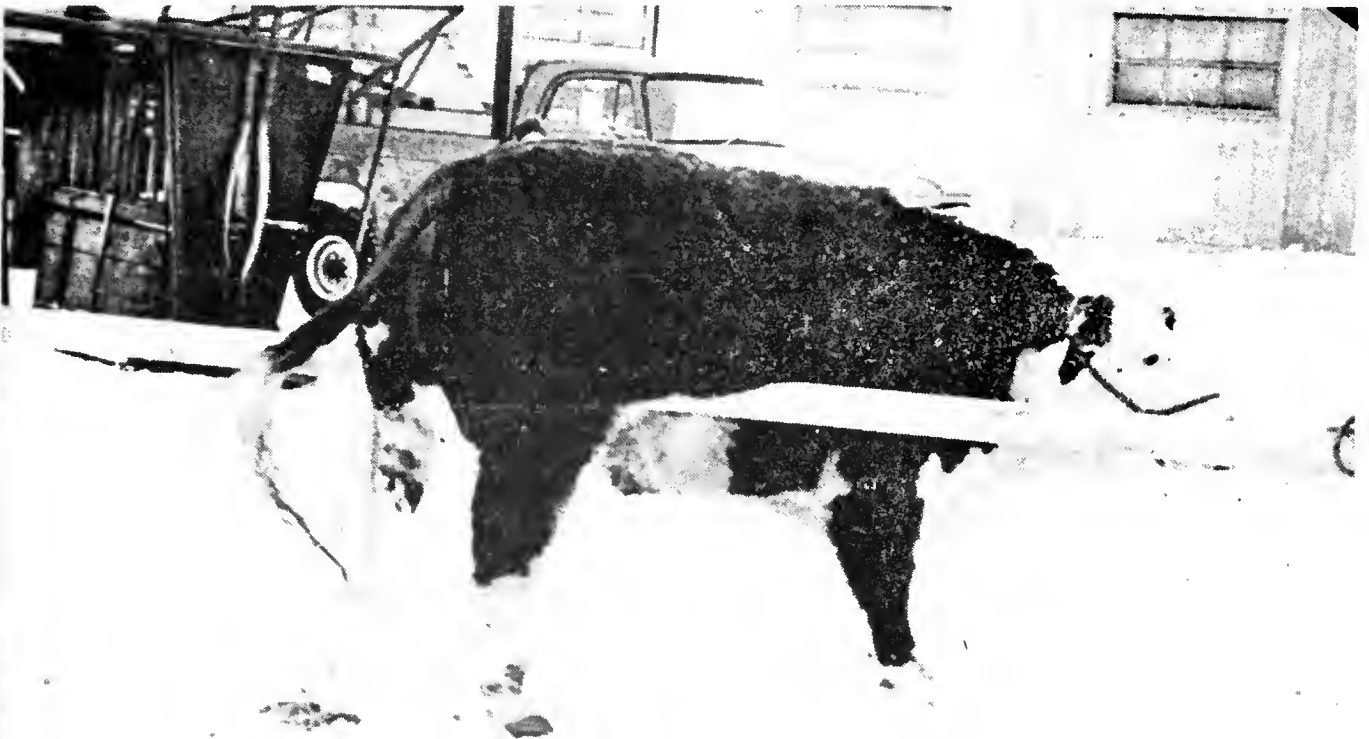
Only because he is an avid bowler can John McElroy of Yellowstone Valley easily handle these two cantaloupe. For their combined weight is over 20 pounds! John, whose main occupation is being Yardmaster of the Milwaukee

Road, has for many years cultivated the biggest melons around. This year presented one of the finest growing seasons in recent area history and John's melons are just one of the agricultural results. (Mark Kren photo)



# BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

BOZEMAN, MONTANA, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 29, 1968



OH, OH! WHAT DO I DO NOW? — Sometimes things get a little out of hand for Winter Fair show people, too. Maybe I'd just better stand tight and let somebody take the rail down. That would be the easiest way out of this dilemma.

Sherman Lessley Photo.



# ATTENTION

## MR. DALE DE VAULT

Your Montana State Employment Service Representative from Great Falls will be at the Commissioner's Room, Co. Court House in

**FORT BENTON, MONTANA**

**Thurs., June 27**

from

**9:00 A. M. to 11:00 A. M.**

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls

Wayne Purdom, Job Corps Representative will also be present.

Thursday, May 23, 1968

THE CHOTEAU ACANTHA

# ATTENTION

## MR. ROY O. YOUNG

Your Montana State Employment Service Representative from Great Falls will be at the

County Comm. Office in Choteau

**Wednesday, May 29, from 9 to 10:30 a.m.**

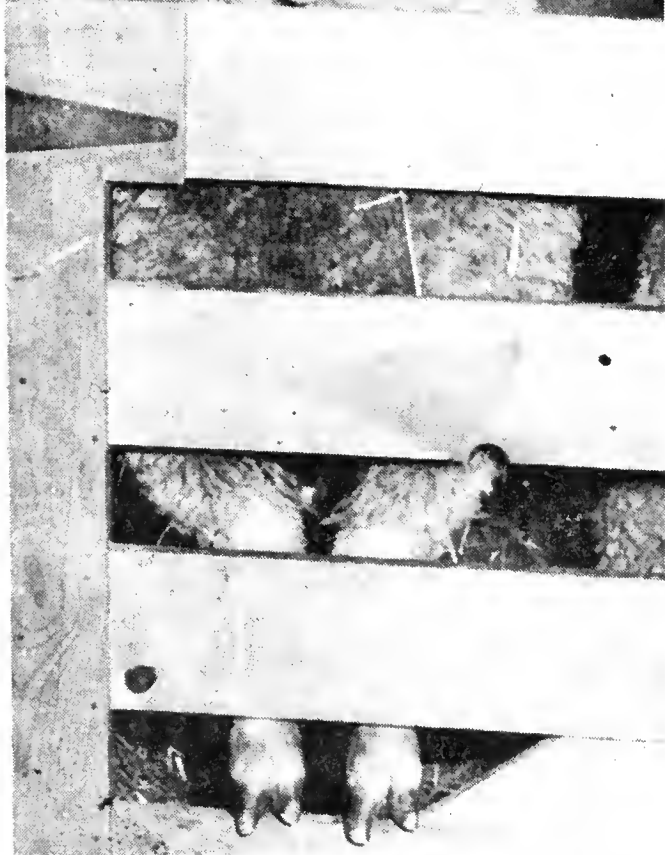
Job Corps Rep. Wayne Purdum Will Also Be Here

If you have labor needs or if you are seeking work, contact him there. Should you desire to contact him prior to arrival, call 453-0351 in Great Falls.



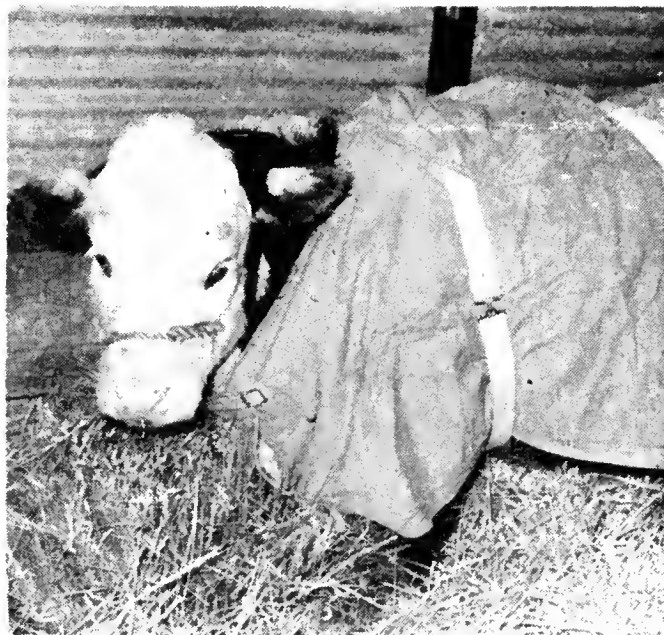


# Winter Fair



WHAT A HAM! — It isn't often that an animal is as cooperative as this sheep who stood on the bottom rail of the pen to pose for the photographer.

Chronicle Photo



BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE — This Hereford is all wrapped up against the chilly temperatures that have been hanging around since the 22nd annual Montana Winter Fair opened.

Chronicle Photo



# Cherry Harvest Labor Recruiting Under Way

Active recruitment in anticipation of the 1968 cherry harvest from Flathead Lake orchards has been started by the Montana State Employment Service.

Anticipation is for a crop of about four million pounds this year according to the Montana Crop Reporting Service. The 1967 crop was 5,560,000 pounds.

Processing at the packing sheds is expected to start the latter part of July. In Kalis-

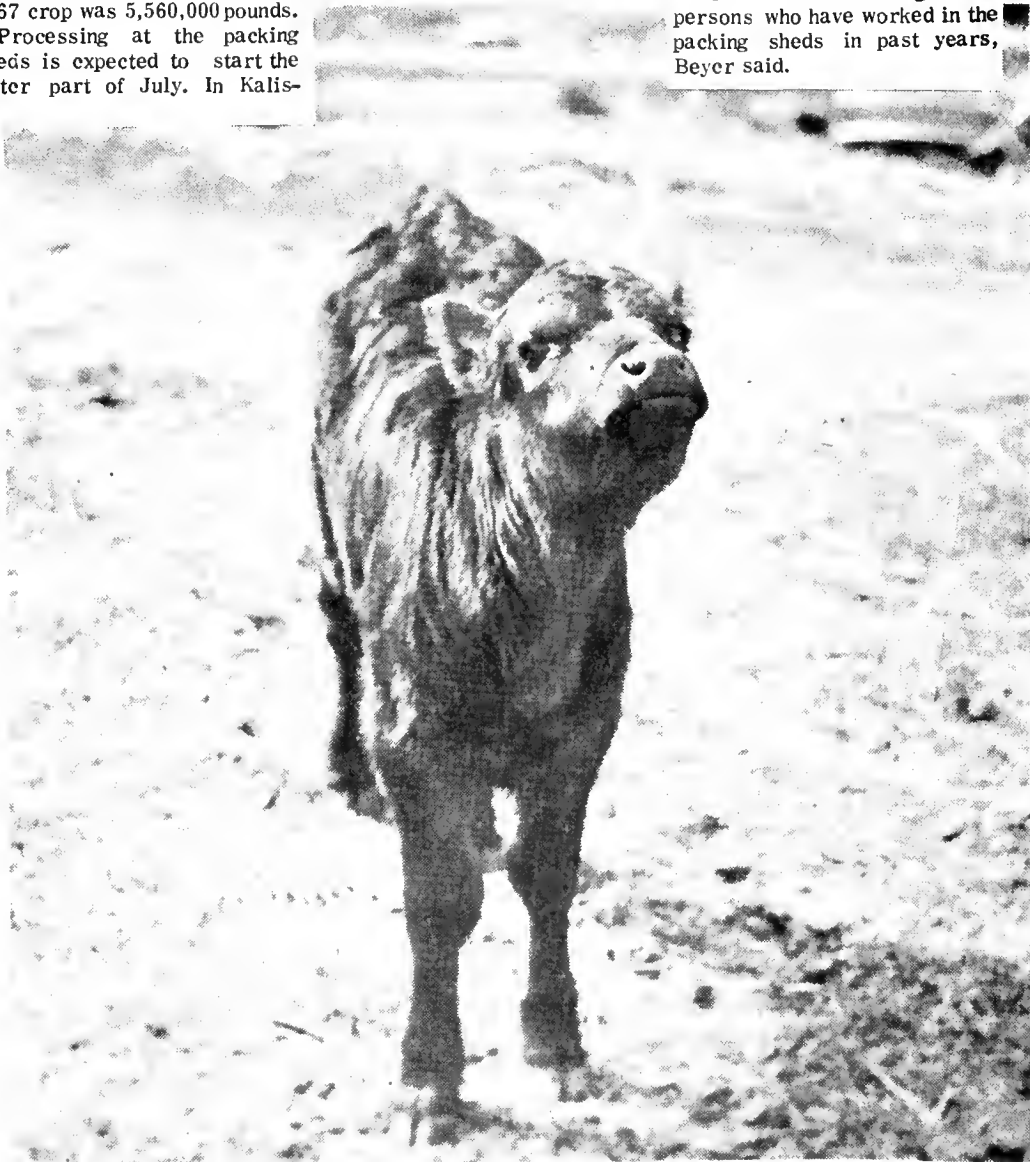
pell crews are working now making changes in the produc-

tion line setup to handle the harvest.

Likely the harvest will entail about 250 workers for the seasonal period. Dexterity tests for prospective workers will be started this week according to Kalispell Office Manager Norman Beyer.

Preference will be given to persons who have worked in the packing sheds in past years, Beyer said.

inter Lake, Sunday, April 28, 1968



Well, I'm in the feed lot,  
now where's the grub?



# Effect of Wage Law Unknown

By Dick Gilluly  
Gazette Staff Writer

New minimum wages which go into effect Feb. 1 will have important impact in Billings, but it is impossible to measure it exactly, Manager Clarence Nybo of the Montana State Employment Service Billings office says.

"Much of the information as

to who is covered is classified," Nybo explained. "We don't have access to it."

For example, one of the criteria for being covered under new provisions of the minimum wage act is the gross amount of business done annually, information which the Department of Labor cannot release, Nybo said.

THE NEW provisions will have little effect on agricultural workers in the area because they have been paid wages above the new minimum wage under other laws, Nybo said.

"But it's certain to have impact in non-agricultural employment," he added.

Workers covered under the old minimum wage provisions will go from a minimum of \$1.40 an hour to \$1.60 on Feb. 1. Workers brought under the act by Congress last year will go from \$1 to \$1.15.

AGRICULTURAL workers on farms included under the act will go from \$1 to \$1.15.

"Employers who were under the act before have been aware of the increase for some time, and they have planned for it," Nybo said.

Higher minimums in the past have tended to bring wages in non-covered industries up because of competition, and this will happen again, Nybo believes.

Covered employers are those that are involved in interstate commerce or that have a gross volume of more than \$500,000 a year.

NEW ENTERPRISES that will be covered for the first time under the 1967 amendments will include hotels, motels and restaurants with over \$500,000-a-year business.

In the category that will go from \$1 to \$1.15 an hour are employees of laundry and dry-cleaning establishments, construction firms, hospitals and nursing homes and most schools—regardless of gross volume of sales or business.

Most farm workers in the area which would be covered under the new provisions are also covered under the sugar act, and their wages are already above the minimums, Nybo said.

## Annual Beet Harvest Sweetens Employment

Billings Gazette Thursday, November 30, 1967 2A

The great importance of sugar beet harvest in the Billings area was illustrated in October when the beet industry employed 1,800 workers at the peak of the harvest. Manager Clarence Nybo of the Montana State Employment Service Billings says, "The harvest is 'virtually complete' but sugar factories in Billings and Hardin should be in 'full swing' processing the beets until after the first of the year," he says. Highway construction in the area provided 280 jobs in October, a record high for the season according to Nybo. Shortages of skilled workers continued through October, but MSSES was able to fill most

openings for skilled field workers, "to name a few," public utilities and 65 in manufacturing. Nybo says he has a large reserve of applicants available for Christmas work, and he suggests to employers that they be able to find full- or part-time workers through MSSES. Many of the applicants are clerks looking for temporary work, he says.

Openings exist in other parts of the state and nation for reserve of applicants available for Christmas work, and he suggests to employers that they be able to find full- or part-time workers through MSSES. Many of the applicants are clerks looking for temporary work, he says.

at the Billings MSSES office in October had 1,471 applicants for reserve of applicants available for Christmas work, and he suggests to employers that they be able to find full- or part-time workers through MSSES. Many of the applicants are clerks looking for temporary work, he says.

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## Indians odds-on favorites to beat '76 win

Seventh Cavalry comes over the hill to meet Indians in scene from the annual re-enactment of Custer's Last Stand scheduled Friday, Saturday and Sunday with shows at 1:30 and 4 p.m. daily at

Crow Agency near Hardin. The re-enactment has become nationally known and is expected to attract a large number of tourists. For story and another picture see Page 3. (Hardin Tribune Photo)



Indians chase members of the Seventh Cavalry over the hill as part of the action-packed re-enactment of the massacre of the Cavalry on June 25, 1876. Several new features have been added to the production





Courtesy - Daily Missoulian

## **A GENUINE PRETZEL LOVER**

Friendly, inquisitive marmots thrive in Glacier National Park on a varied diet that occasionally includes pretzels, peanuts and potato chips. This character,

sometimes referred to as a mountain mouse, mooched a goodie from a passing motorist.





Missoula strawberries are tops.  
(Courtesy - Daily Missoulian)



## Bitter Root Is Missoula's Bedroom

# *Part-Time Farmers, Commuters Alter Agriculture*

By JIM CRANE

Missoulian Farm Reporter

Commercial agriculture appears to be losing importance in the total economy of western Montana.

Indicative of the trend is Ravalli County where farms are being subdivided for homesites at a rapid pace and where the County Agricultural Conservation and Stabilization office estimates the rural farm population at 3,864 and the rural non-farm population at 5,400.

The trend to country living and city livelihood has brought the nickname "Missoula's bedroom" to the Bitter Root Valley.

While the effects of part-time farming and full-time employment elsewhere may not always be as evident in the rest of western Montana, the trend remains.

The Lake County ASCS office in Ronan reports: "It is believed that 40 to 50 per cent of these farmers have full-time jobs off the farm and that about 70 per cent have either full-time or part-time jobs off the farm or have income from other sources.

"A survey by the extension service showed many farmers working full-time in the local saw and plywood mills, woods, creamery and related work, feed mills, stores, gas stations and construction work."

The 1964 Montana Census of Agriculture contains statistics

that tend to substantiate the move to part-time farming.

In 1964 there were 1,088 farms in Flathead County and 1,551 farm residents who worked off the farm more than 100 days a year. Sanders County showed 449 farms and 549 farm residents who have other sources of income. Ravalli County listed 1,031 farms and 1,331 farm or rural residents with off-farm sources of income.

Montana had 27,020 farms in 1964; 6,143 farm households reported during that year income from other sources was greater than the value of farm products sold.

While the average size of farms is increasing in western Montana, the average increase isn't as dramatic as in the eastern part of the state.

In fact the size of farms in Mineral County decreased from an average of 509.4 acres in 1959 to 457.4 acres in 1964. At the same time the number of farms in the county rose from 59 in 1959 to 75 in 1964.

The Missoula-Mineral ASCS officials say about 70 per cent of the farmers in Mineral County are part-timers.

Missoula County has about 490 farms presently. About 52 per cent of these are operated by part-time farmers.

Locally compiled figures indicate that housing developments, industrial sites and roads have taken up about 6,445 acres in Missoula County in the last 10 years. About 3,400 acres went into subdivisions and homesites

process of subdividing. Commercial and industrial sites took up about 1,600 acres and road right-of-way, primarily for Interstate 90, took up about 1,400 acres. On the average, a mile of interstate takes a little more than 36 acres of land.

From 1954 to 1964 in Ravalli County, the loss of farmland amounted at about 5,800 acres.

The ASCS office reports "around 600 acres went into road right-of-ways. Only about 200 acres went into formal subdivisions, mostly around Hamilton. The other 5,000 acres went into rural residences."

"Since the last census the tendency to subdivide is increasing at a rapid pace," the office reports. "Mostly this has been the sale of small tracts by individual farmers. Presently one local realtor has two projects totaling 1,300 acres. Several others, including landowners, are entering this field."

Area realtors comment that small homesite tracts are sought not only by area townspeople, but also by many residents of other states.

It appears that the net effect of part-time farming and rural homes for city families is to diminish the relative importance of commercial agriculture in the whole of western Montana's economy.

Long-term projections of the growth of western Montana indicate too that the trend to rural living, part-time farming and subdivision of commercial farms will continue.





Harvesting near Corvallis.  
Fertilizer experiment plot under  
direction Corvallis Experiment Station.  
(Courtesy - Ravalli Republican)



# The Billings Gazette

Wednesday Morning, January 11, 1968-

## Beet Farmers Told: Use Bargaining Power

By Sandy Blackner  
Gazette Staff Writer

It's up to farmers to obtain a fair share of the American economy through bargaining

power, says a farm leader.

"We in agriculture can no longer depend on legislation, political power if we're going to obtain our fair share of the na-

tion's burgeoning economy," says Richard W. Blake, National Beet Growers Federation executive vice president, Greeley, Colo.

"We are going to have to bring economic pressure to bear."

And that's increased bargaining power.

Blake, interviewed Tuesday morning, spoke during the afternoon session of the Mountain States Beet Growers Association of Montana annual meeting at the Northern Hotel. Approximately 300 were expected to attend.

**THE PROBLEM'S** been given "quite a bit" of substance by the Administration, says Blake, who's on an informal committee working for almost a year with the Department of Agriculture to draft a bill to provide tools for a stronger, more successful farmer bargaining.

And he believes the Administration agrees with the majority of the producers that such a program should be permissive and voluntary. It shouldn't have a mediation board like the National Labor Relations Board, to set minimum prices as many wouldn't be farmers and wouldn't have their interests at heart, he says.

Noting government programs and directives haven't solved the farmers' problems, he adds, "No one knows better what's needed than the farmers, but they have to operate as a group and as few groups as possible."

**SUGAR BEET** growers have gone farther in bargaining than possibly any other American farm group except the citrus and grape growers.

Still, for three years, they've failed to produce what they could under the Sugar Act, he notes. Last year they marketed approximately 2.7 million tons of a possible 3.25 million.

If that continues, the slack is going to be taken up by imports, he warns.

The price outlook for the growers is good as Blake says, "I think they can look for higher return from the crops."

Three things are responsible — a new beet purchase contract with Great Western Sugar Company which, he says, tends to force the firm to do a better job of marketing sugar, better administration of the Sugar Act program and continuation of the inflation spiral.

Blake also outlined producer and consumer benefits of the Sugar Act program, which is to protect and aid the domestic sugar industry, assure the consumer of adequate supply at reasonable prices and promote export trade.

U.S. consumers pay a median price for sugar compared to other countries in the world and less than the majority of developed countries, he says. While Australians pay 7 cents a pound, Americans average 11 to 12 cents, most Europeans 3 to 4 cents higher and Russians 52 cents.

Re-elected as board officers were Ishmael Yost, president, Billings; Joe Alles, vice president and director-at-large, Billings and Edwin Kuntz, secretary, Custer.

2\*

2\*



Let her rip -  
(Courtesy Daily Missoulian)



## FARM LABOR REPORT

Agricultural outlook in the Missoula local office area for 1968 left quite a bit to be desired in way of growing season. A long cool, dry spring resulted in setting harvest back from one to two weeks and cut the yields drastically on all hay and grain crops. Dry land hay suffered the most from lack of moisture but irrigated hay also was short and many do not plan to attempt a second cutting this year as are unable to get enough water on it to do any good.

Cattle in the area are doing real well although summer ranges are also suffering from the dry weather conditions which will probably bring on an earlier supplemental feeding program. Hay holdovers from 1967 are expected to bring about a workable feeding program this fall with no wholesale marketing of cattle expected to materialize in the near future.

Mechanization and more efficient methods have reduced the demands for hand laborers in the hay fields and livestock feeding programs.





# HAVRE DAILY NEWS



**COWBOY'S FUNERAL --** A riderless horse with boots reversed in the stirrups follows the hearse in the funeral procession for Robert Stirling, 83, oldest working cowboy in Montana who died last Thursday. The funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at Holland and Bonine Funeral Home in Havre and the procession is shown here as it wends through downtown Havre. The cowboy leading the riderless horse is Robert Wade. (Staff photo by Vern McIntyre)

## Honor Area Cowboy

Funeral services for Robert "Bob" Stirling were held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Holland and Bonine Funeral Home in Havre. Rev. George French, S.J., officiated at the services.

Stirling, 83, one of the state's oldest working cowboys, died Thursday at a local hospital.

Pallbearers were Russell Olson, Edmond Solomon, Robert Sivertsen, Nick Faber, Ambrose Phalen and Robert Boyce.

Honorary pallbearers were Ed Molitor, Bill Young, Steve Boyce, Don Greytak, Jack Ellis and Jack Young.

Don Greytak, Dwaine Sargent and Pat Thackeray ushered.

Alan Hansen accompanied soloist Bill Fuglevand as he sang "In the Garden" and "Holy Ghost Dispel Our Sadness."

In the procession to Highland Cemetery, Robert Wade led a riderless horse which had the boots turned backwards in the stirrups. An honor guard of Jack Young, Connie Cox, Wade Bickford and Clifford Fredrickson, all on horseback, escorted the hearse bearing the casket.



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Don Kirkpatrick was one of about 15 who responded during the past week to an appeal for farm labor to help with a harvest being held up by inclement weather. This picture catches him Monday at the Lyle Long farm southeast of Cut Bank as he unloaded the combine. That's Don on the right and on the combine to his left are Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Long and Don Crail who has been busy trying to place volunteers through the local Employment Office.

Photo by Jerry Kavanagh



A Cut Bank Optimist Club project to help with the harvest barely got off the ground this week before snow and rain hit again Tuesday afternoon. And not all those that signed up to help were Optimists. Don Kirkpatrick worked at the Lyle Long farm, but

he isn't a member of the club, although Lyle is. So is local Employment Officer Manager Don Crail, shown here giving Don a hand unloading a truck. They were picking up barley that went as high as 60 bushels per acre.

Photo by Jerry Kavanagh



**MILES**

**CITY**

**STAR**



**Above action photo by Mark Kron is typical of what you'll see Saturday and Sunday at the Bucking Horse Sale.**





(Courtesy Daily Missoulian)



Photo of early Miss J.